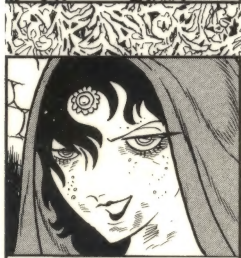
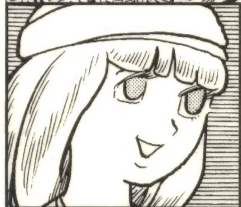




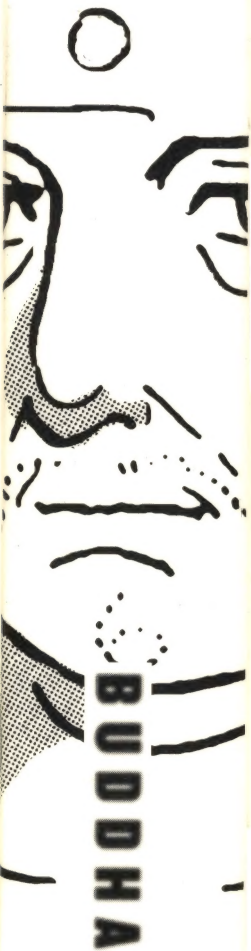
All life is sacred...



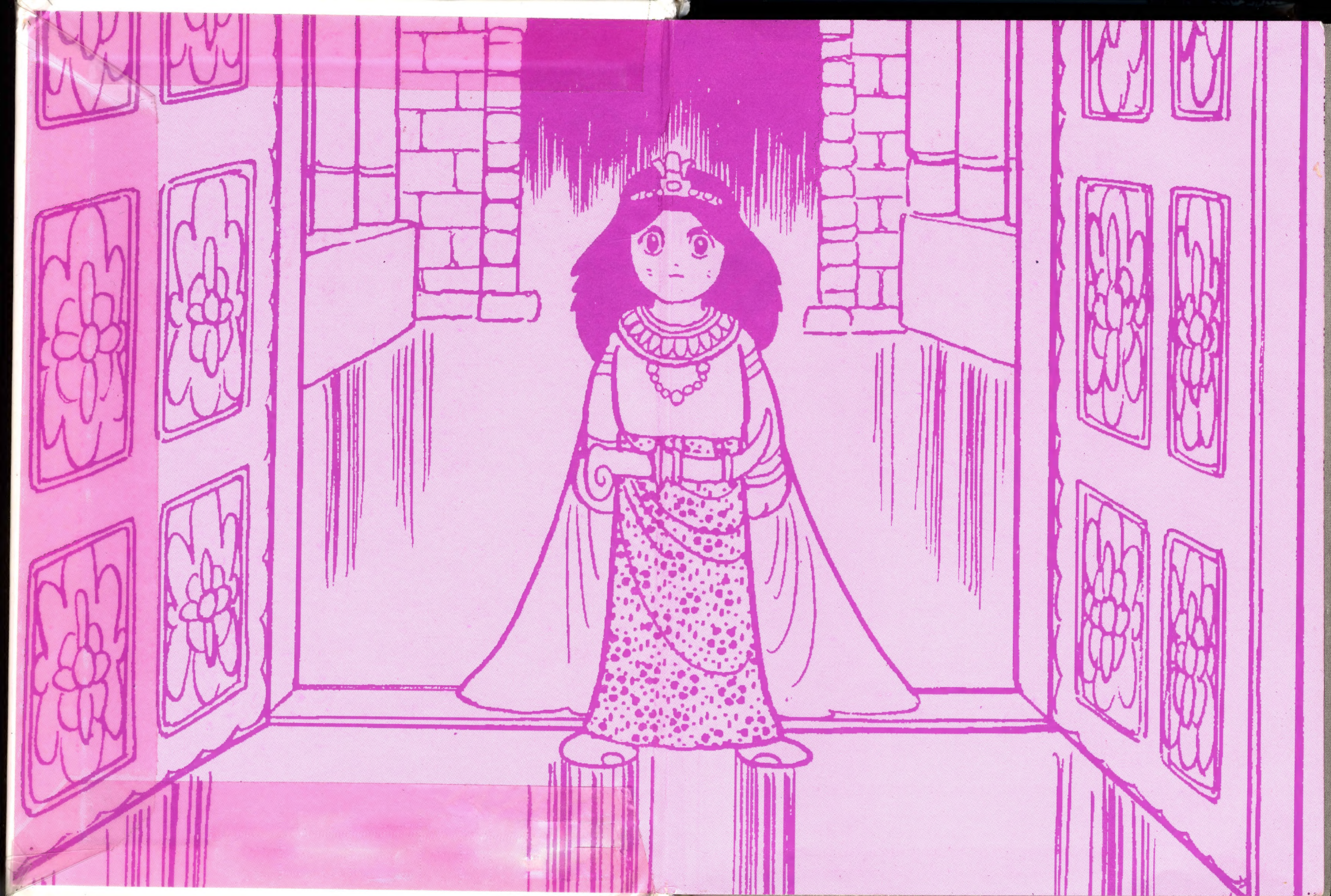
Two princes, and a third that was...

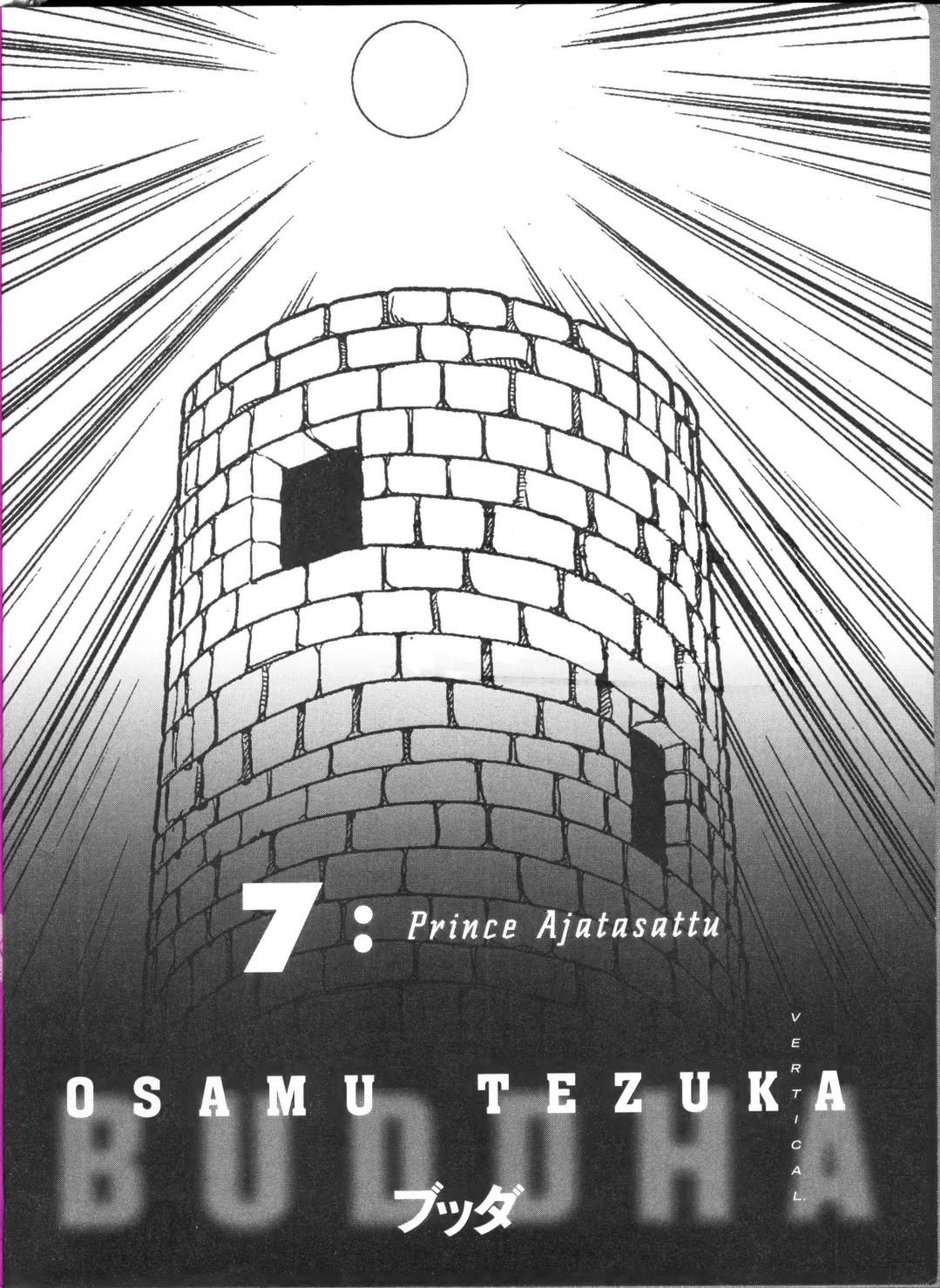
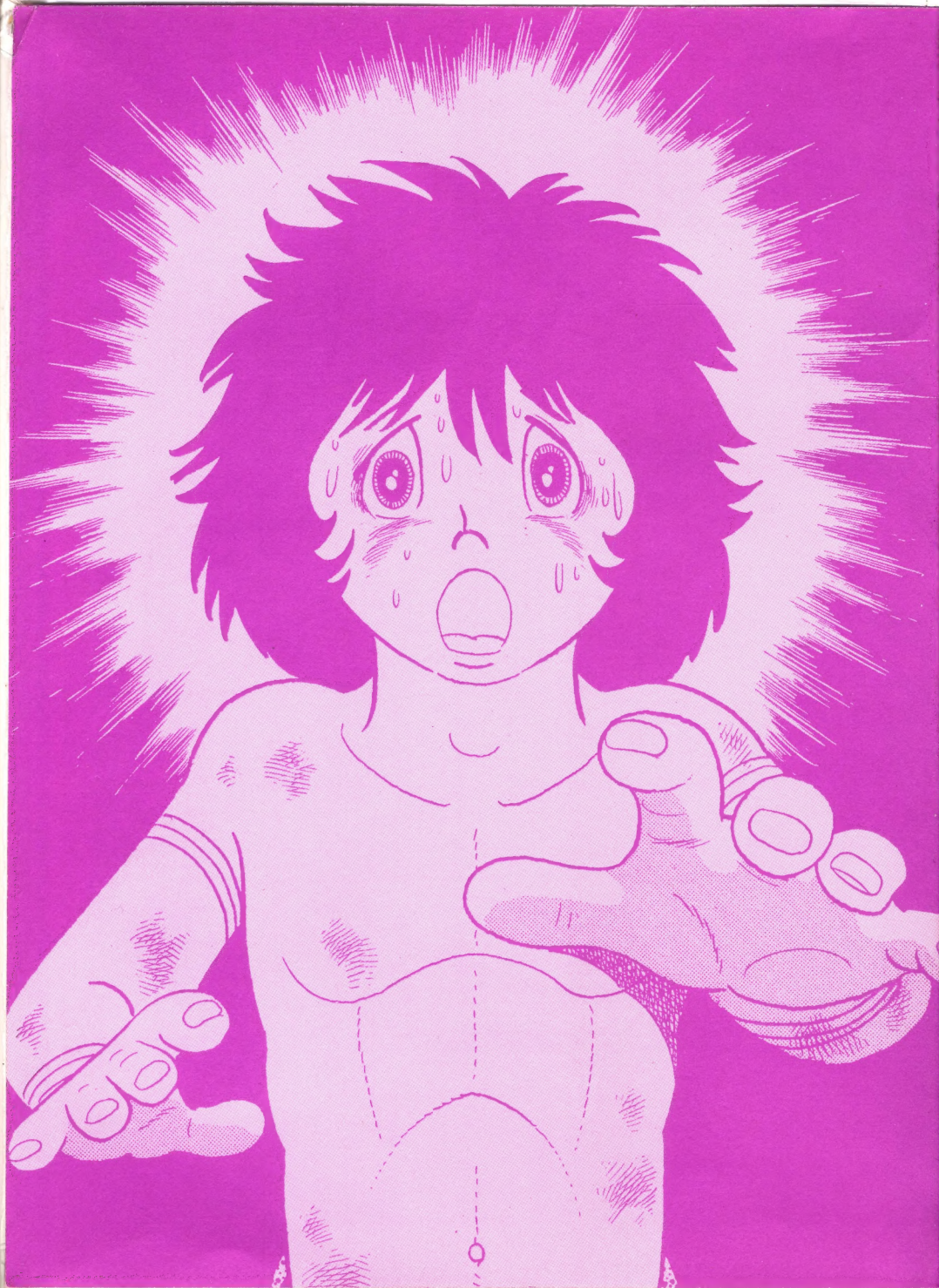


BUDDHA



OSAMU
TEZUKA





7 : *Prince Ajatasattu*

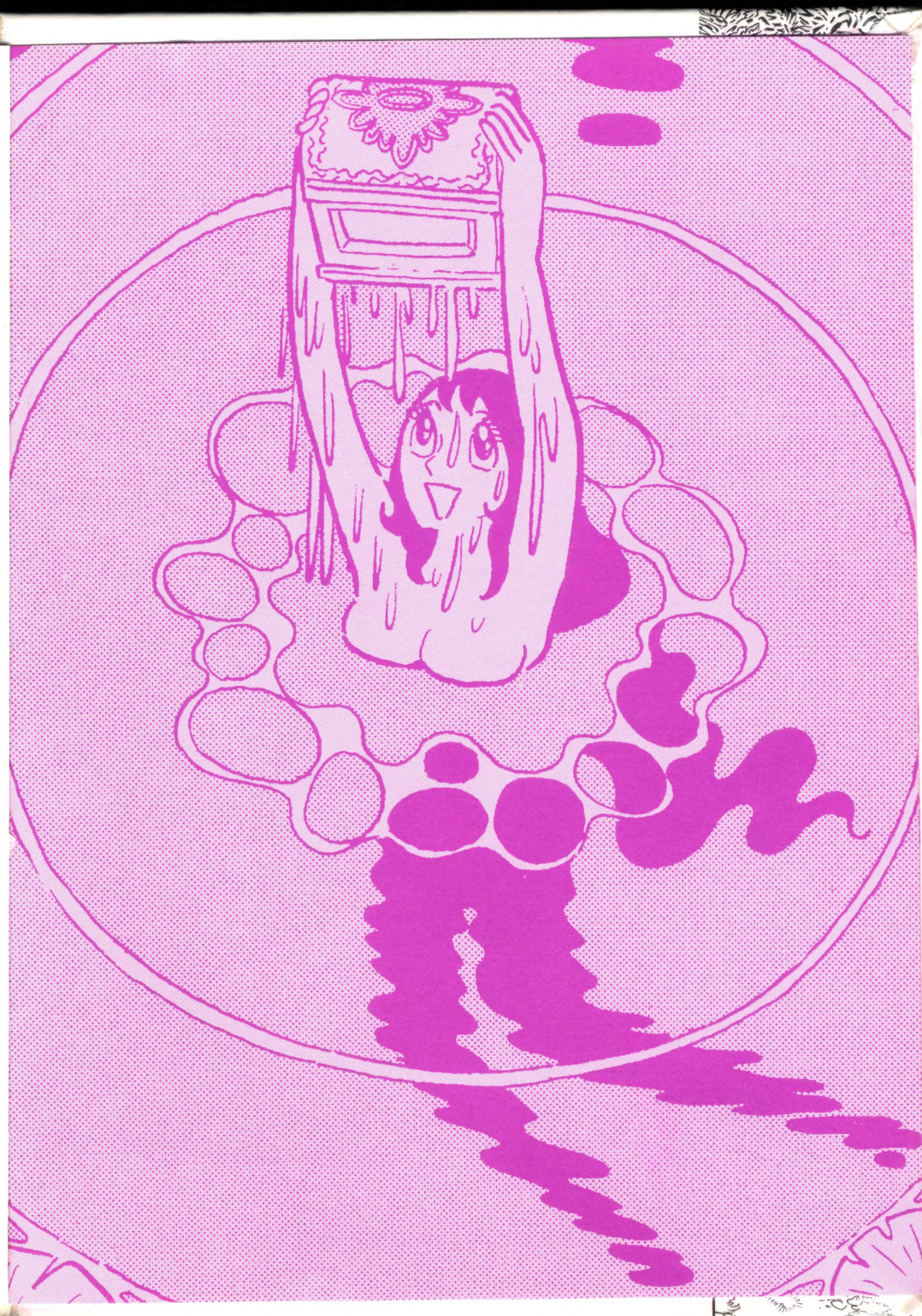
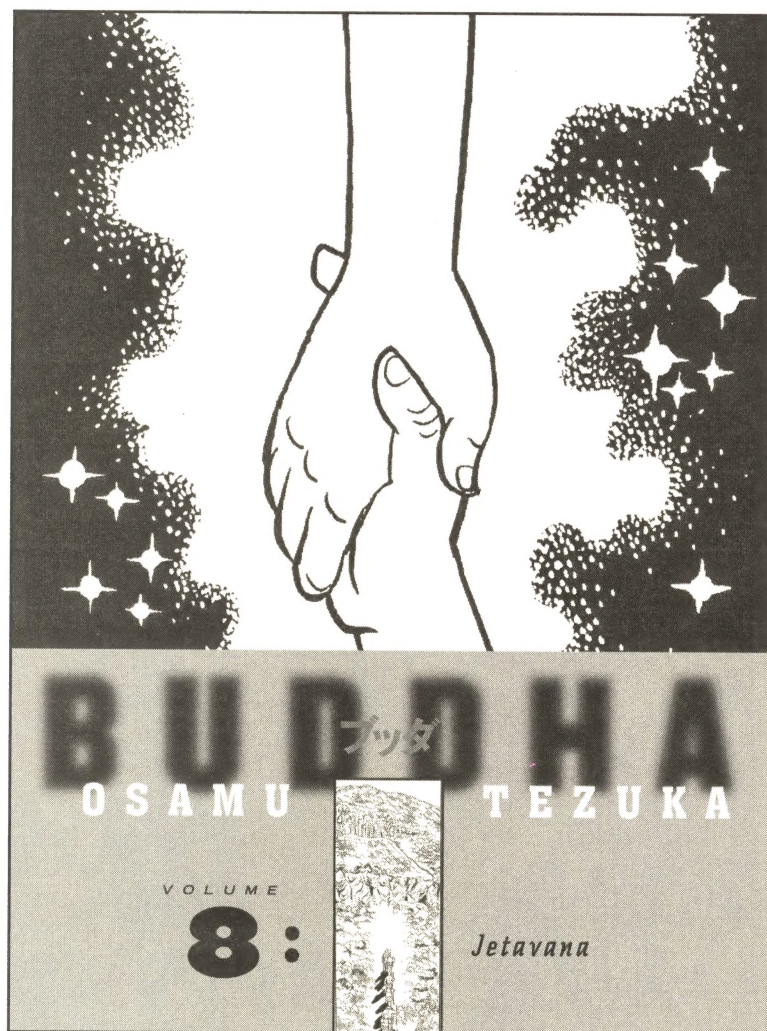
OSAMU TEZUKA

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COMING SOON: THE FINAL VOLUME!



PART FIVE (CONTINUED)

9/ VENUVANA

7

10/ IMPRISONED PRINCE

75

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1/ SARIPUTTA AND MOGGALLANA

131

2/ A CROWD OF CRITICS

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225

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5/ ENCOUNTER WITH PRINCE CRYSTAL

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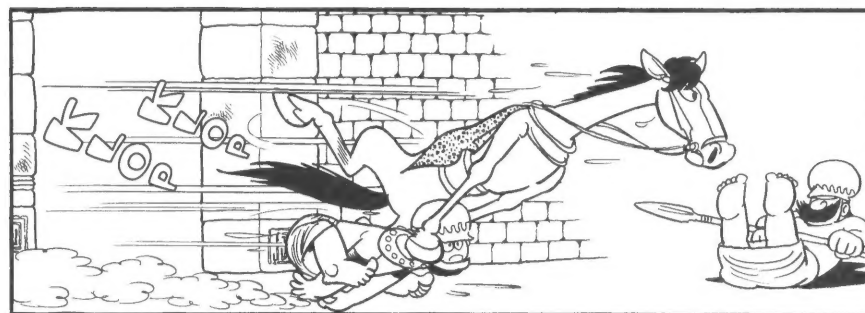
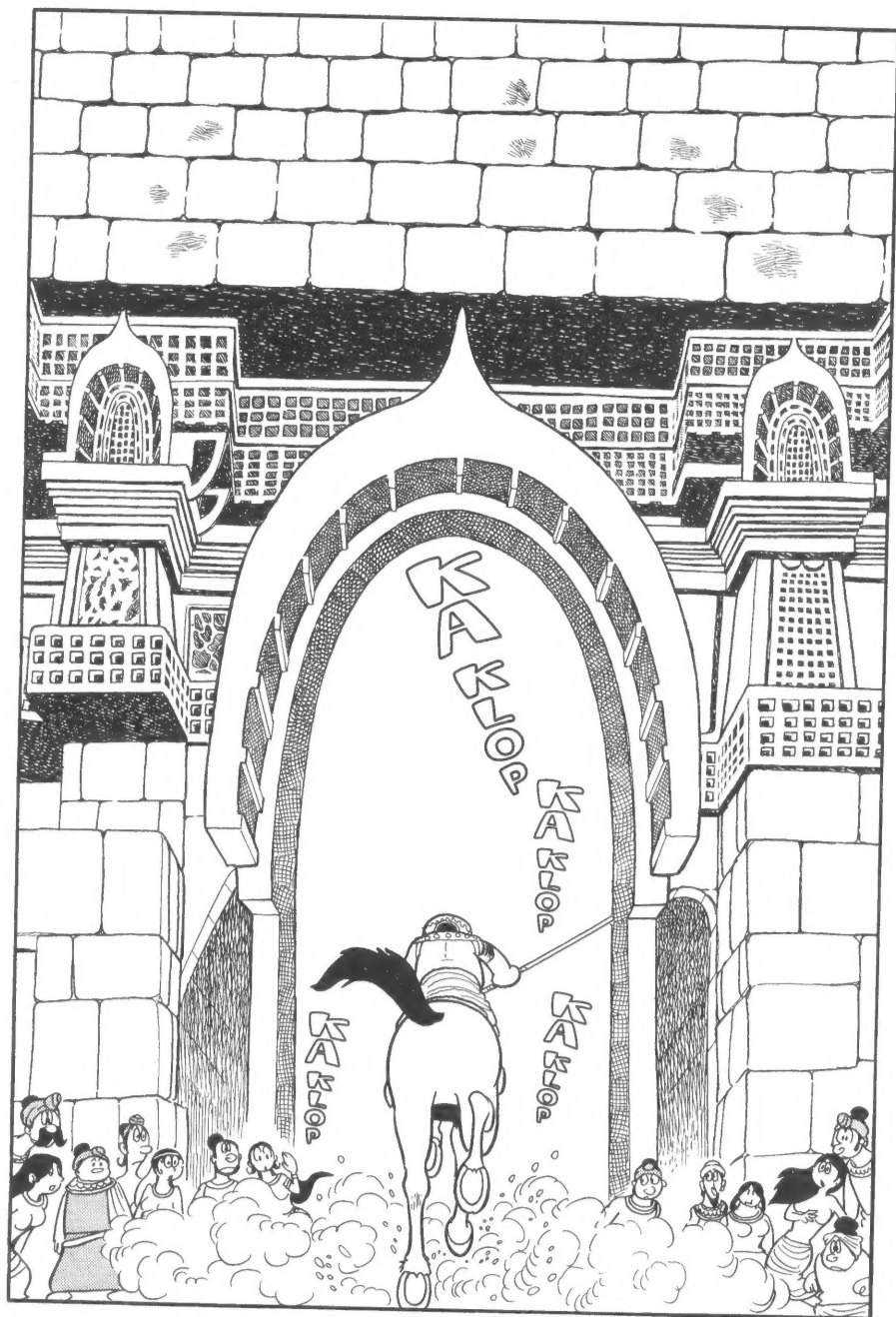
7/ EMANCIPATION

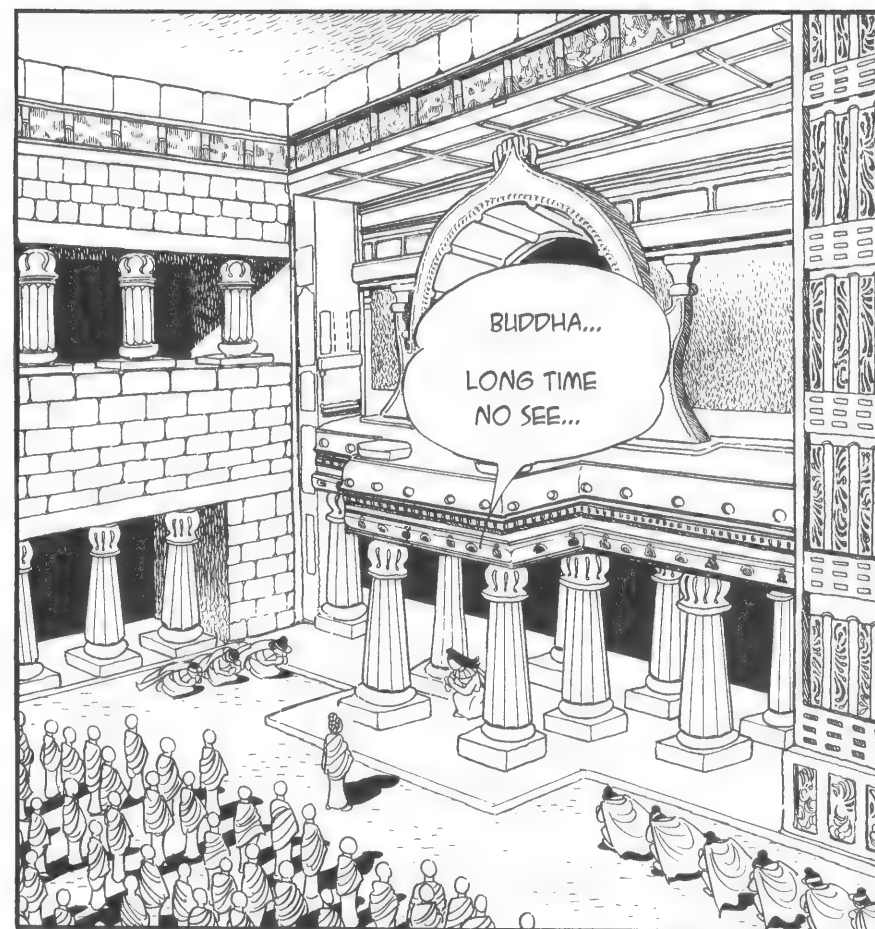
381

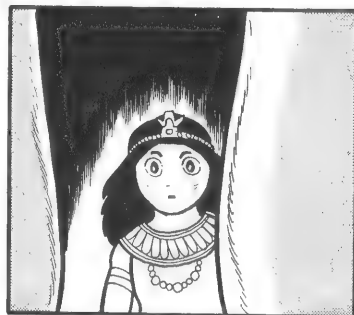
PART FIVE (CONTINUED)

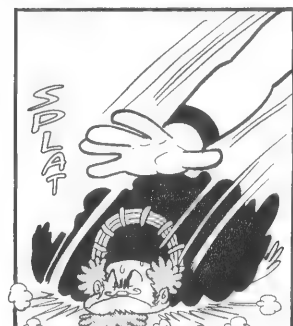
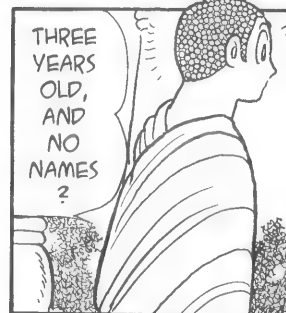
CHAPTER NINE

VENUVANA

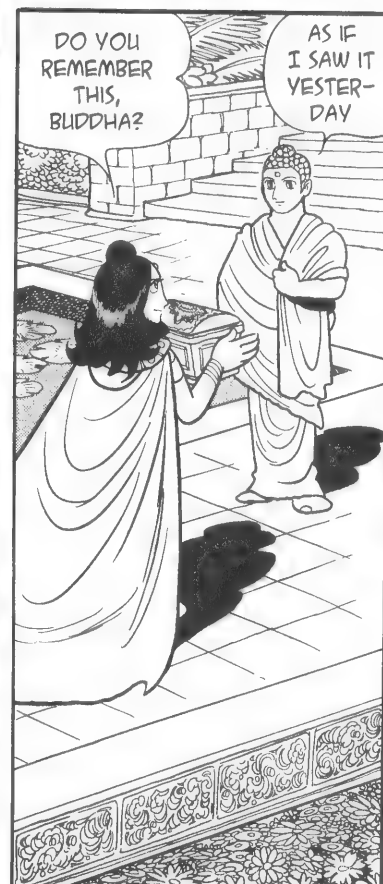
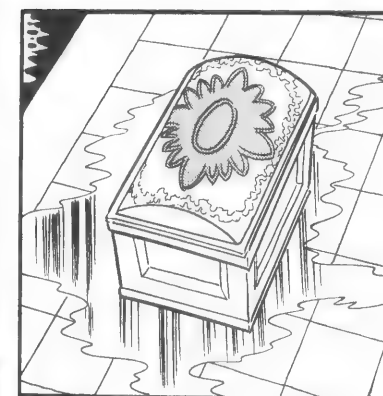
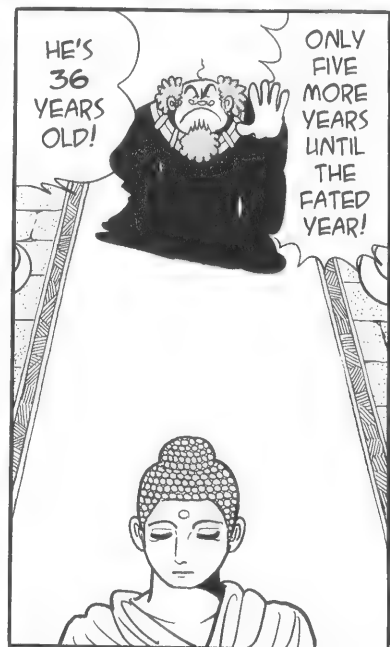
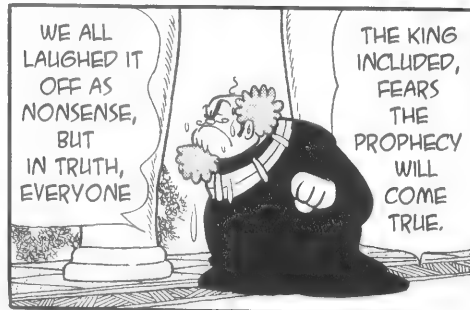
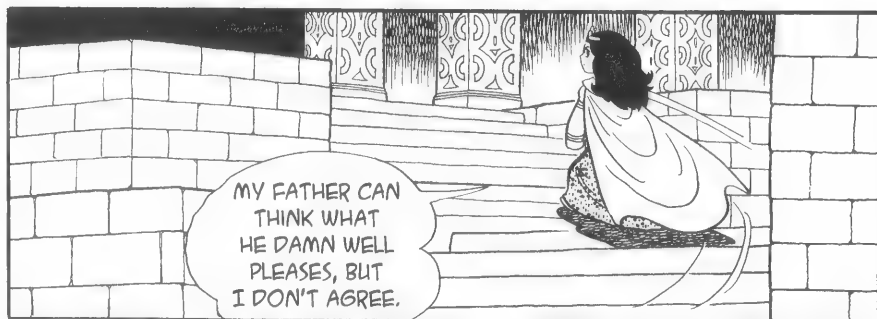


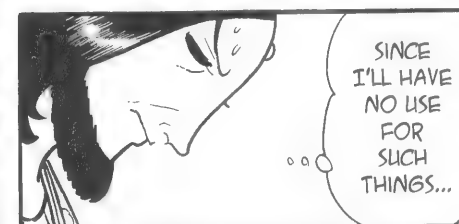


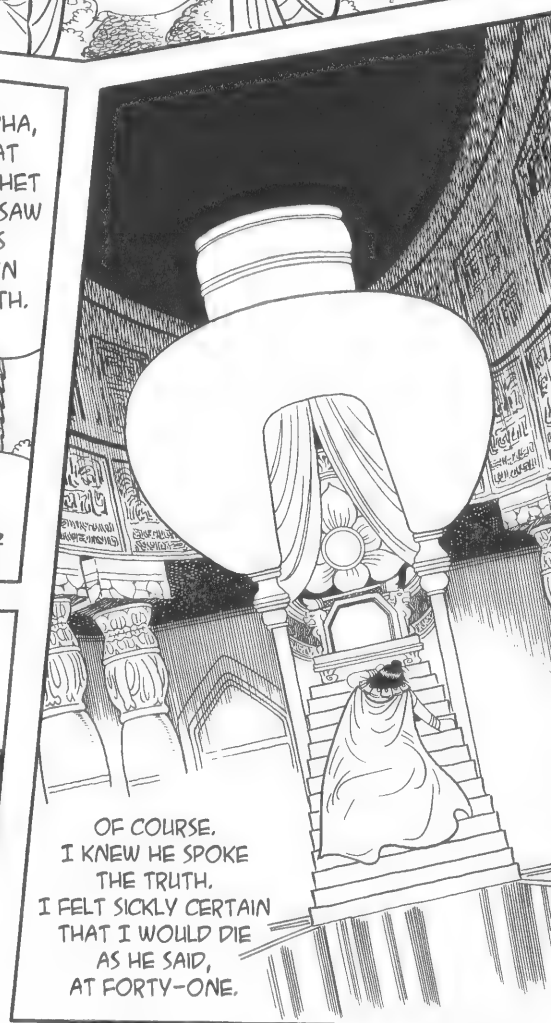


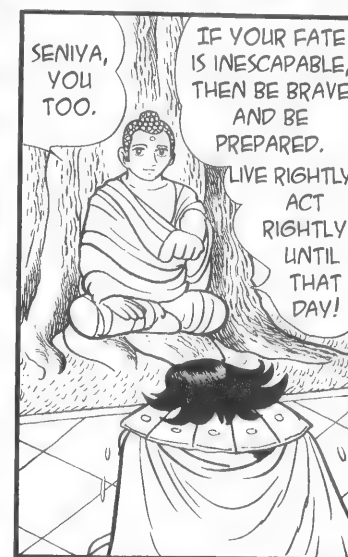
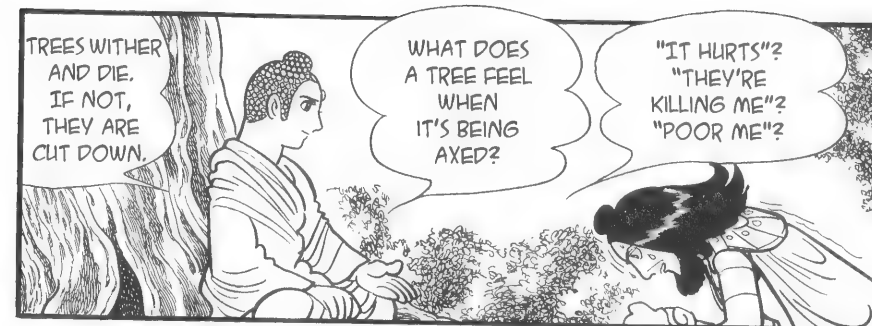
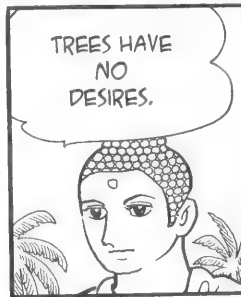
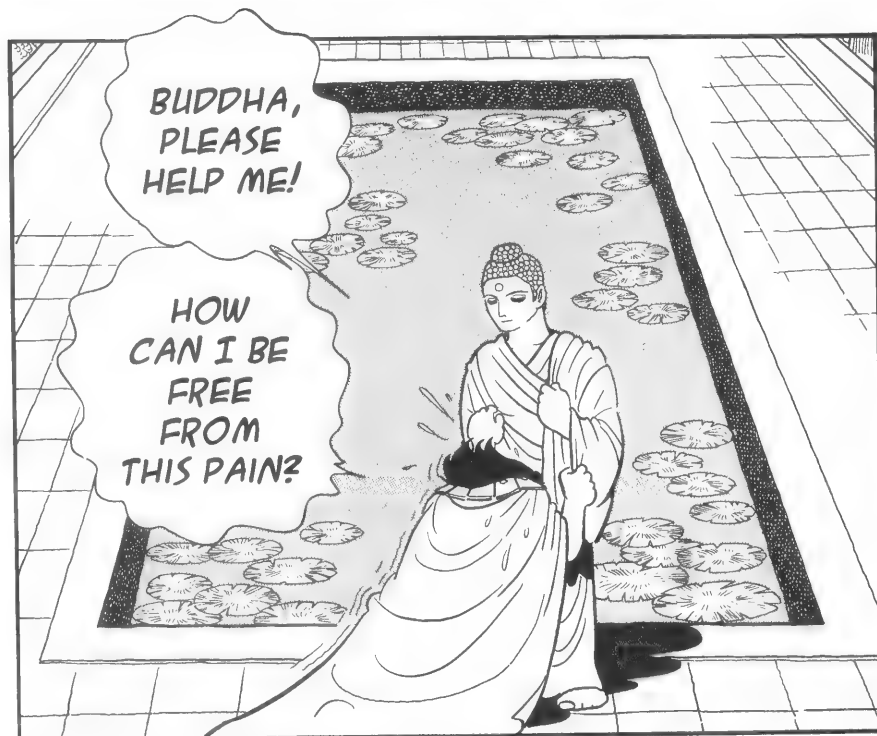


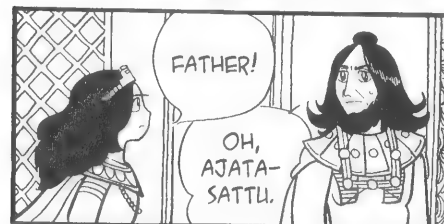
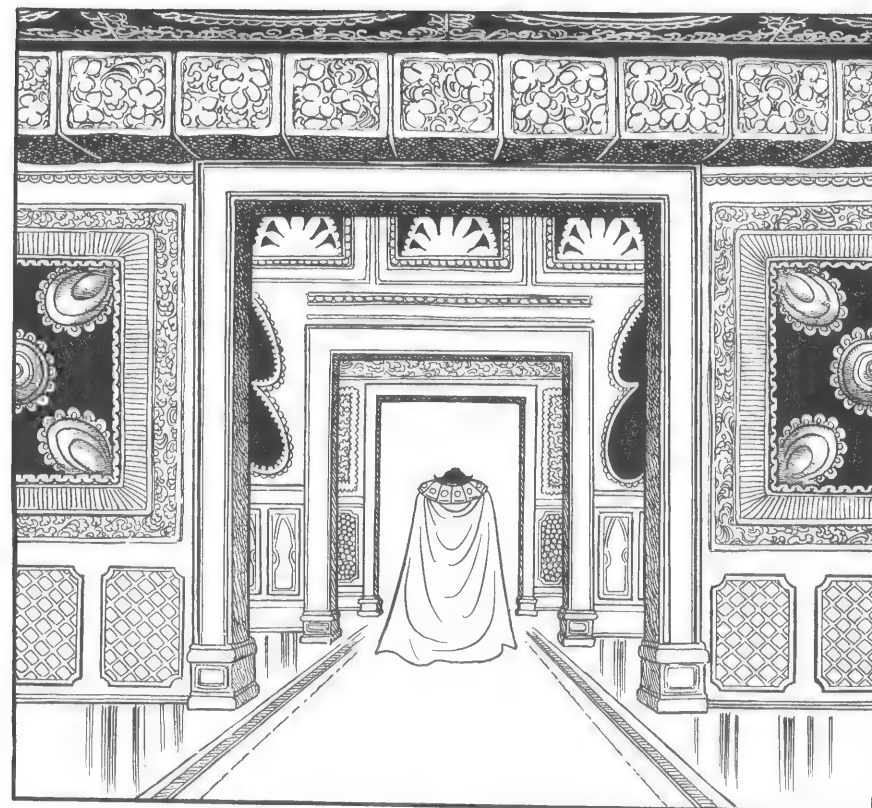
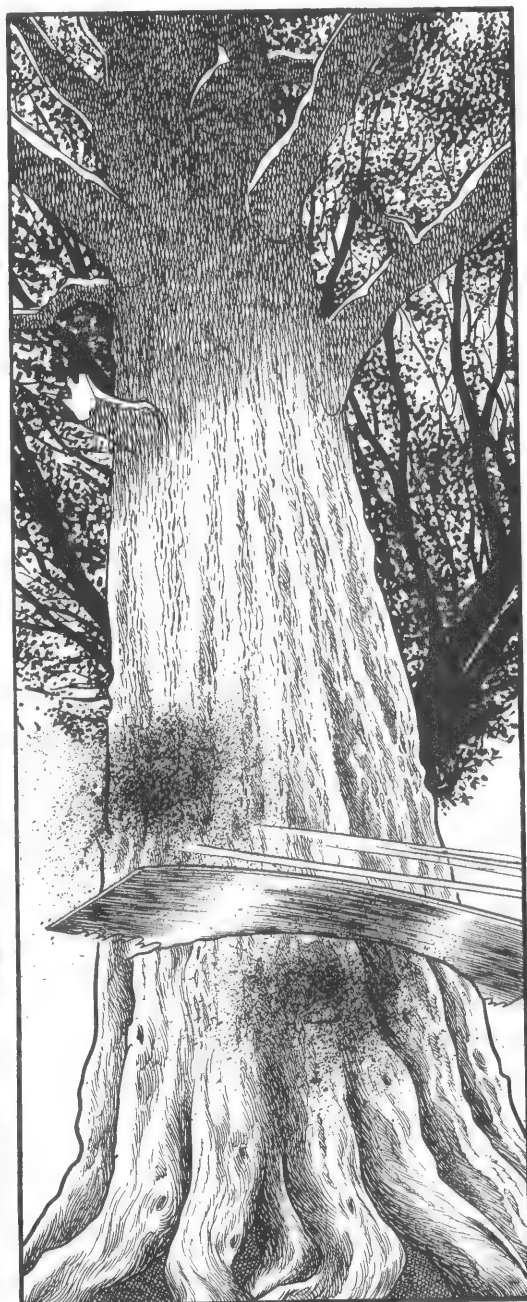
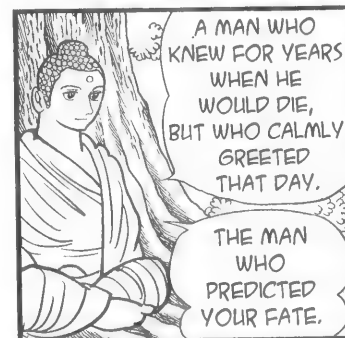


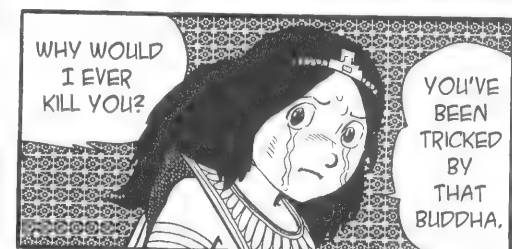
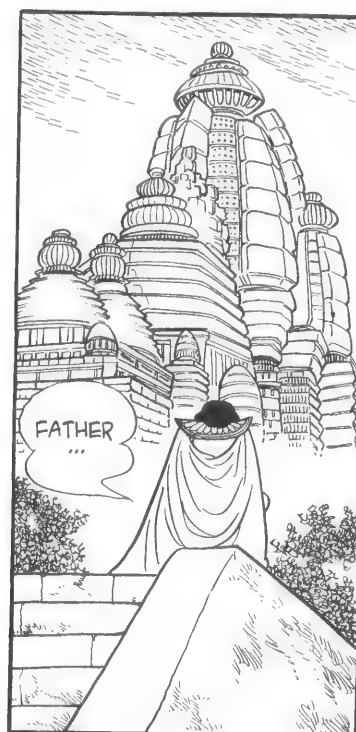
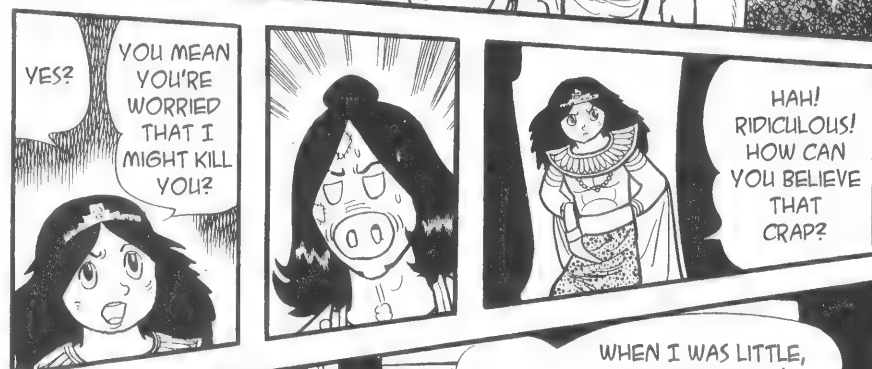
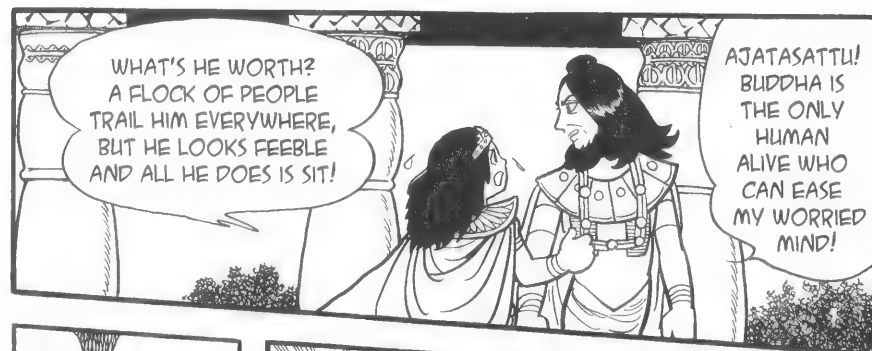


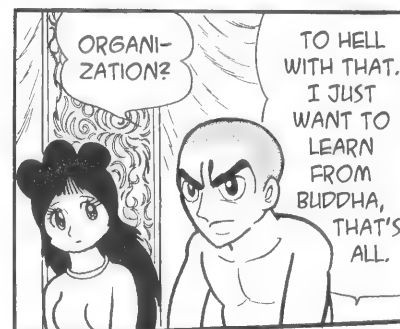


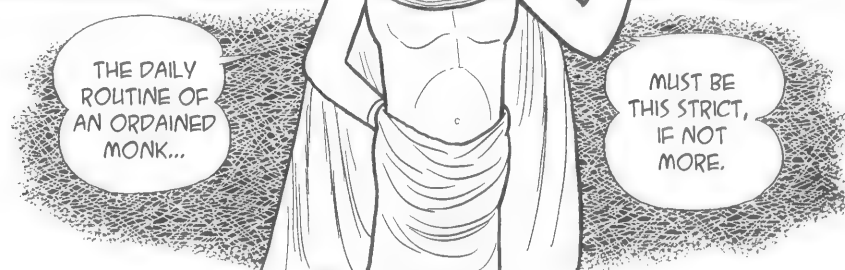
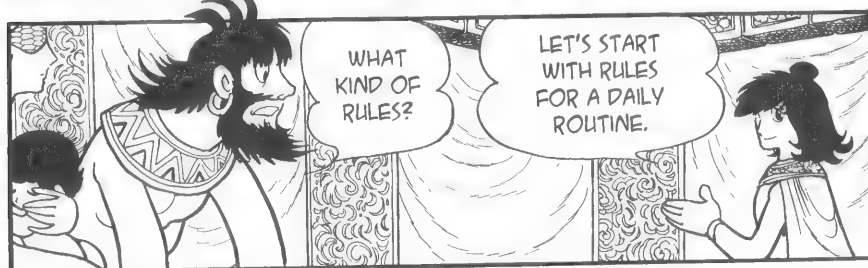


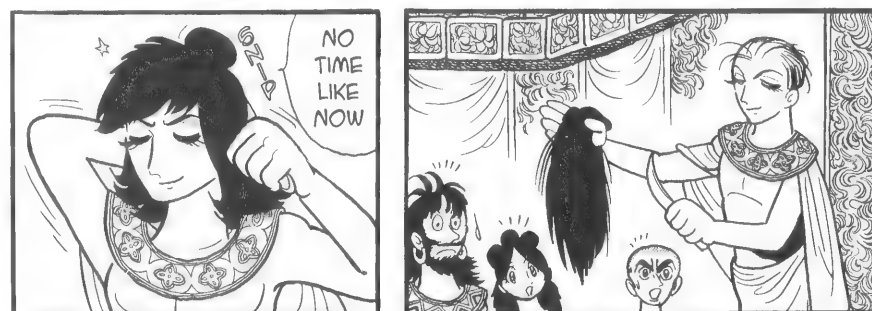
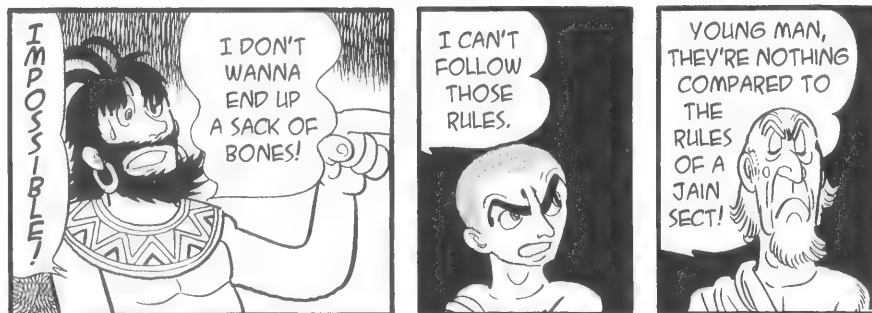


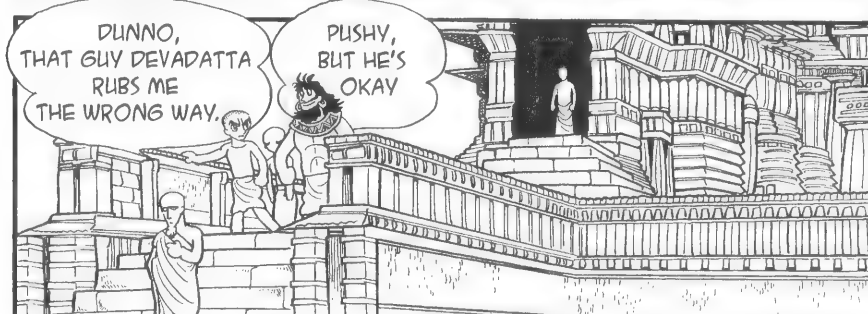
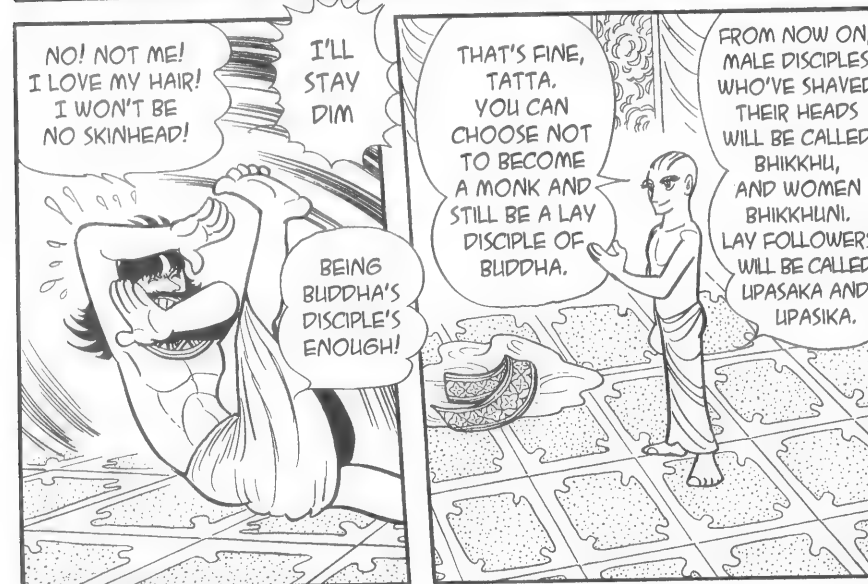
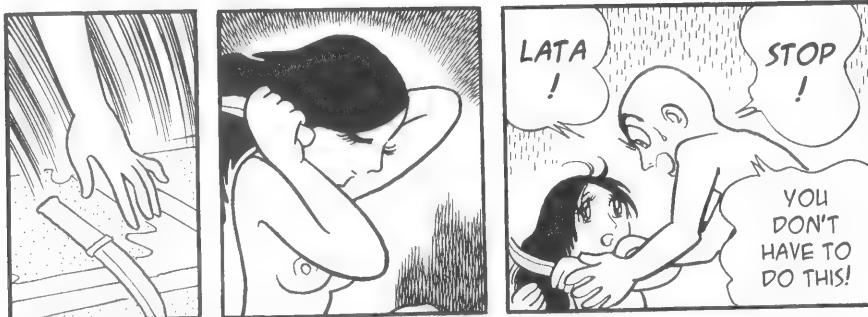






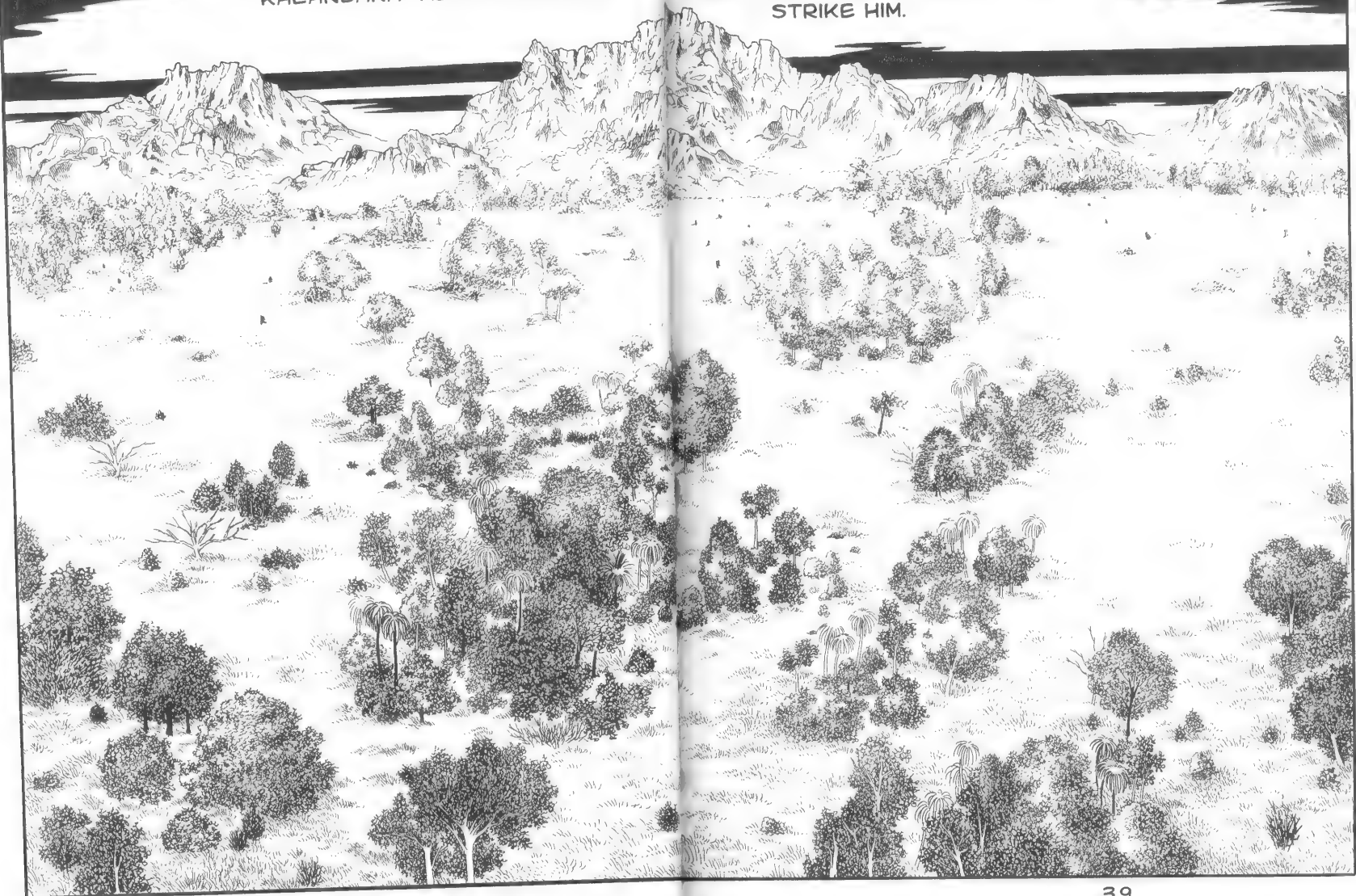


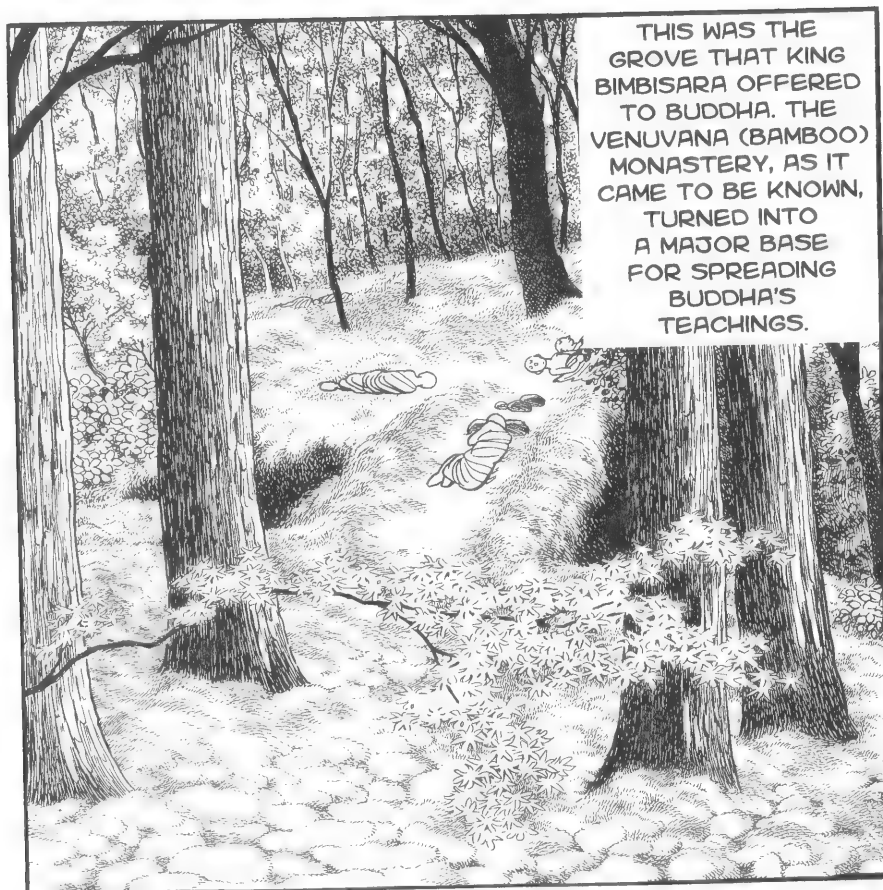




TO THE NORTH OF RAJGRIHA,
CAPITAL OF MAGADHA,
WAS A FIELD CALLED
THE KALANDAKA BAMBOO GROVE.
"KALANDAKA" MEANS SQUIRREL.

ONCE, ACCORDING
TO LEGEND,
A KING WHO LAY
ASLEEP THERE WAS
SAVED BY A SQUIRREL,
WHO WOKE HIM UP JUST
BEFORE A VIPER COULD
STRIKE HIM.





THIS WAS THE GROVE THAT KING BIMBISARA OFFERED TO BUDDHA. THE VENUVANA (BAMBOO) MONASTERY, AS IT CAME TO BE KNOWN, TURNED INTO A MAJOR BASE FOR SPREADING BUDDHA'S TEACHINGS.



HEY... ANANDA!



WHO'S THERE ?!



LONG TIME NO SEE!

HUH, AHIMSA ?



GET OUT OF HERE. I'VE CUT ALL TIES WITH YOU.

THANKS FOR THE WARM WELCOME.

SO HOW'D'YA LIKE THE MONK LIFESTYLE, EH?



YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE ENJOYING IT.

SHUT UP!



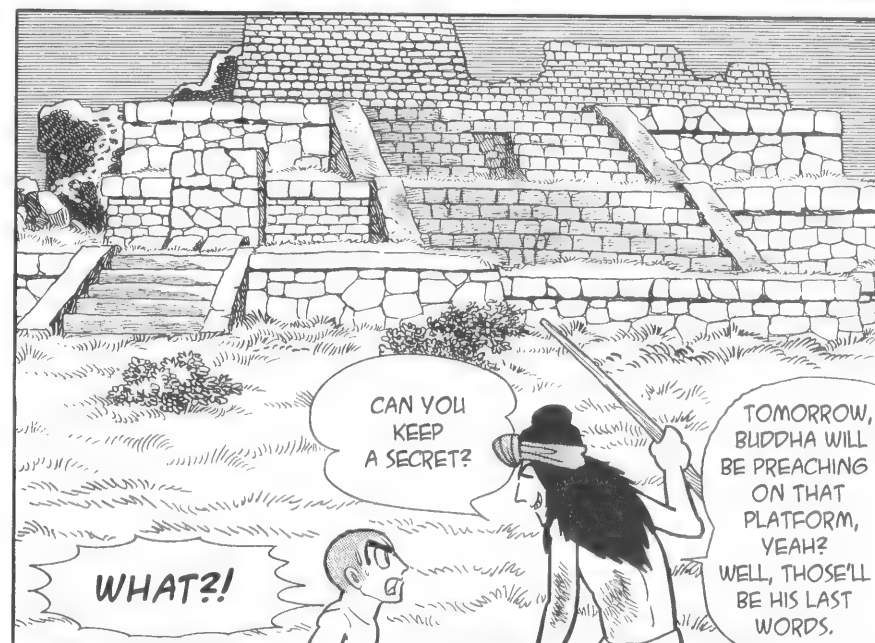
HEH HEH HEH ...

FOR YOUR OWN GOOD ...



GIVE UP THIS MONK CRAP AND WORK WITH ME.

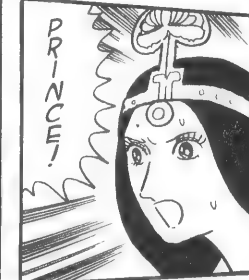
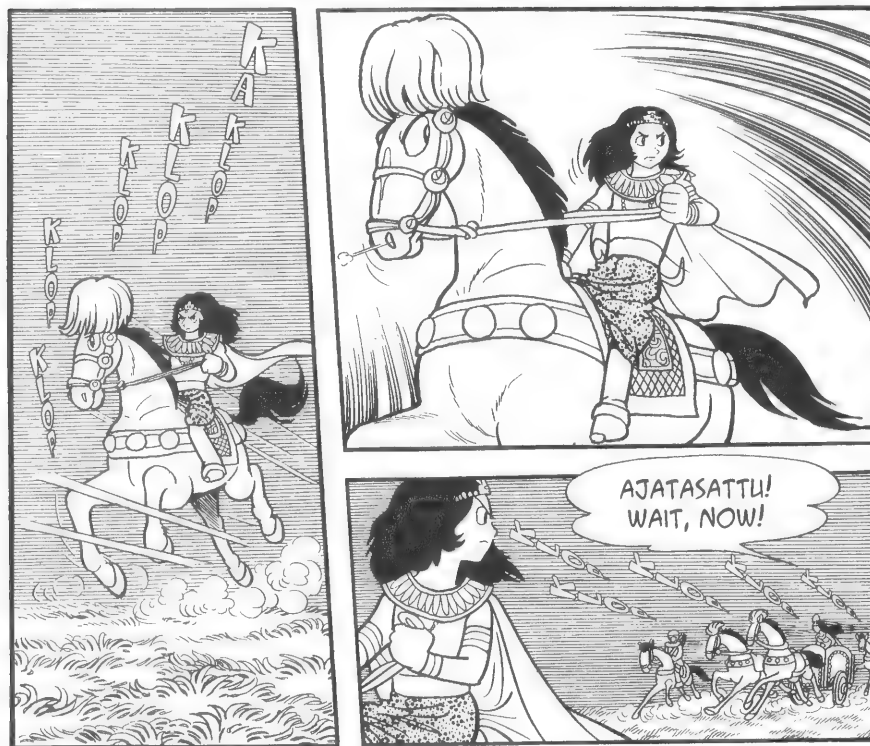
I SAID GET LOST!

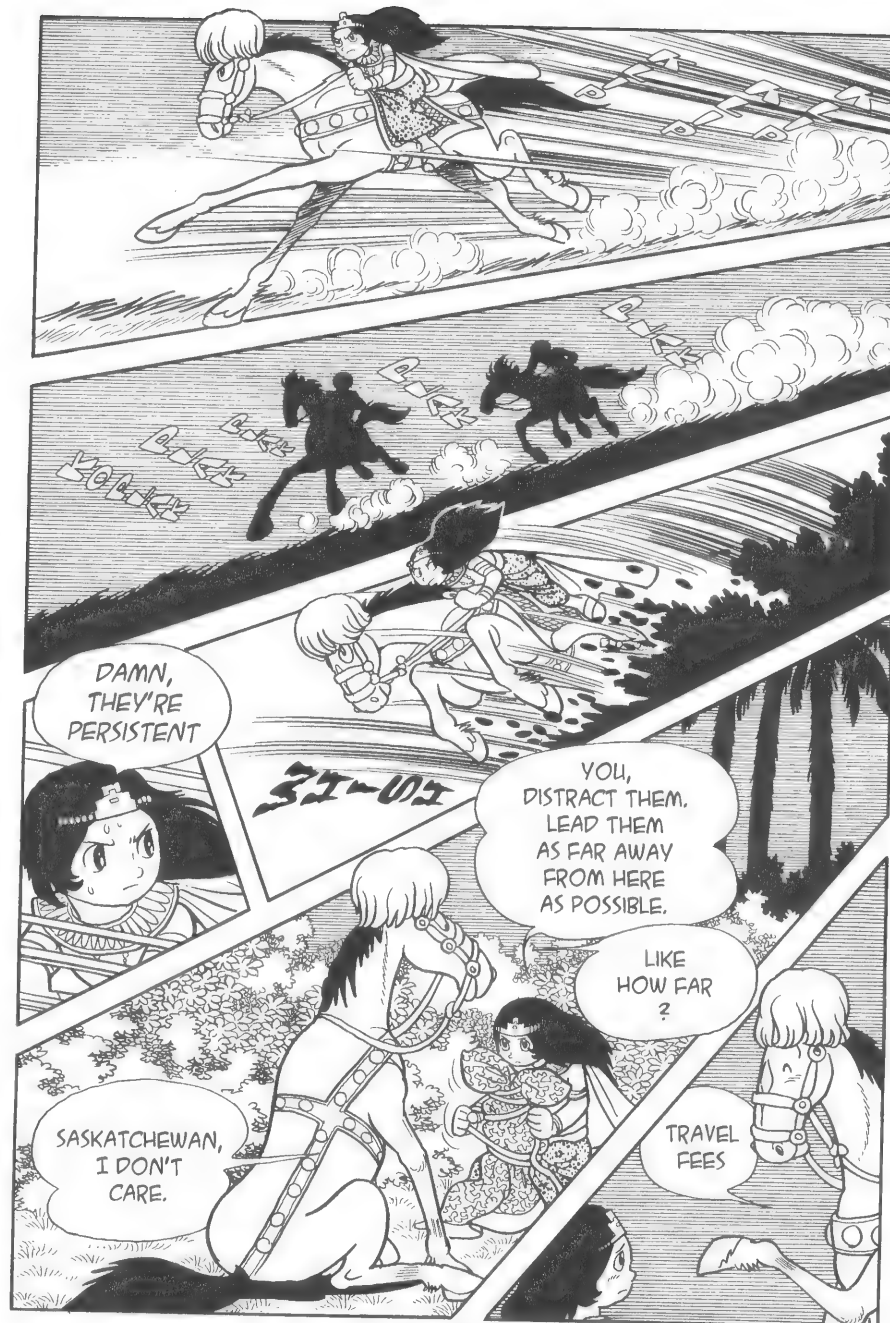
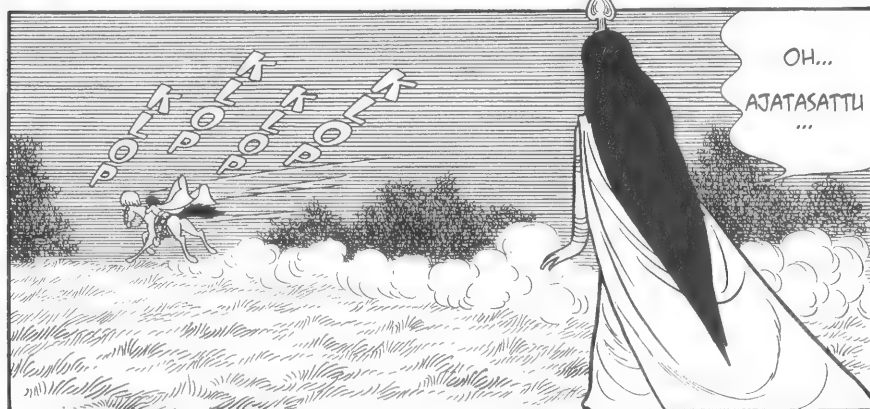


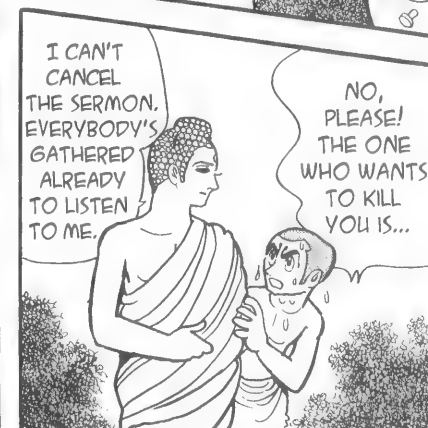
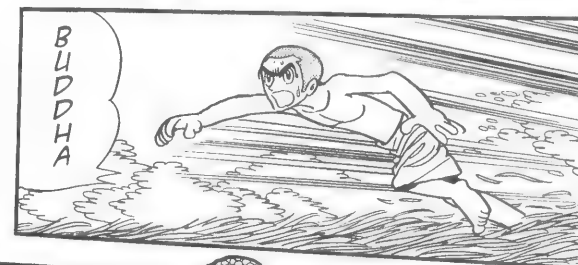
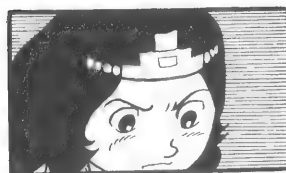
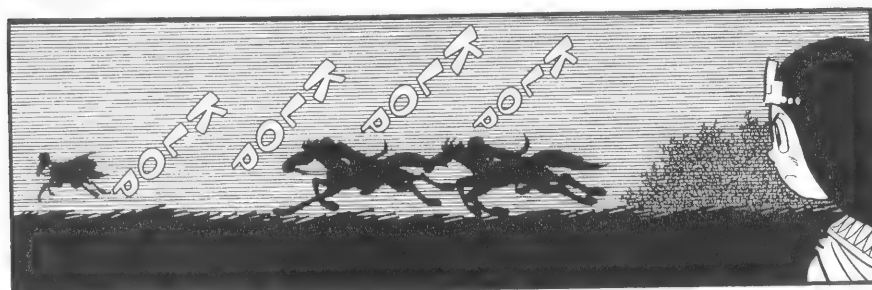
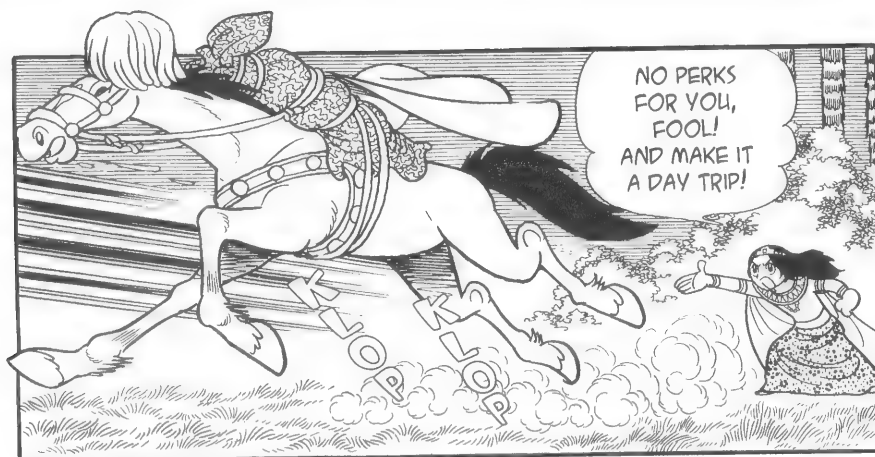
CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?

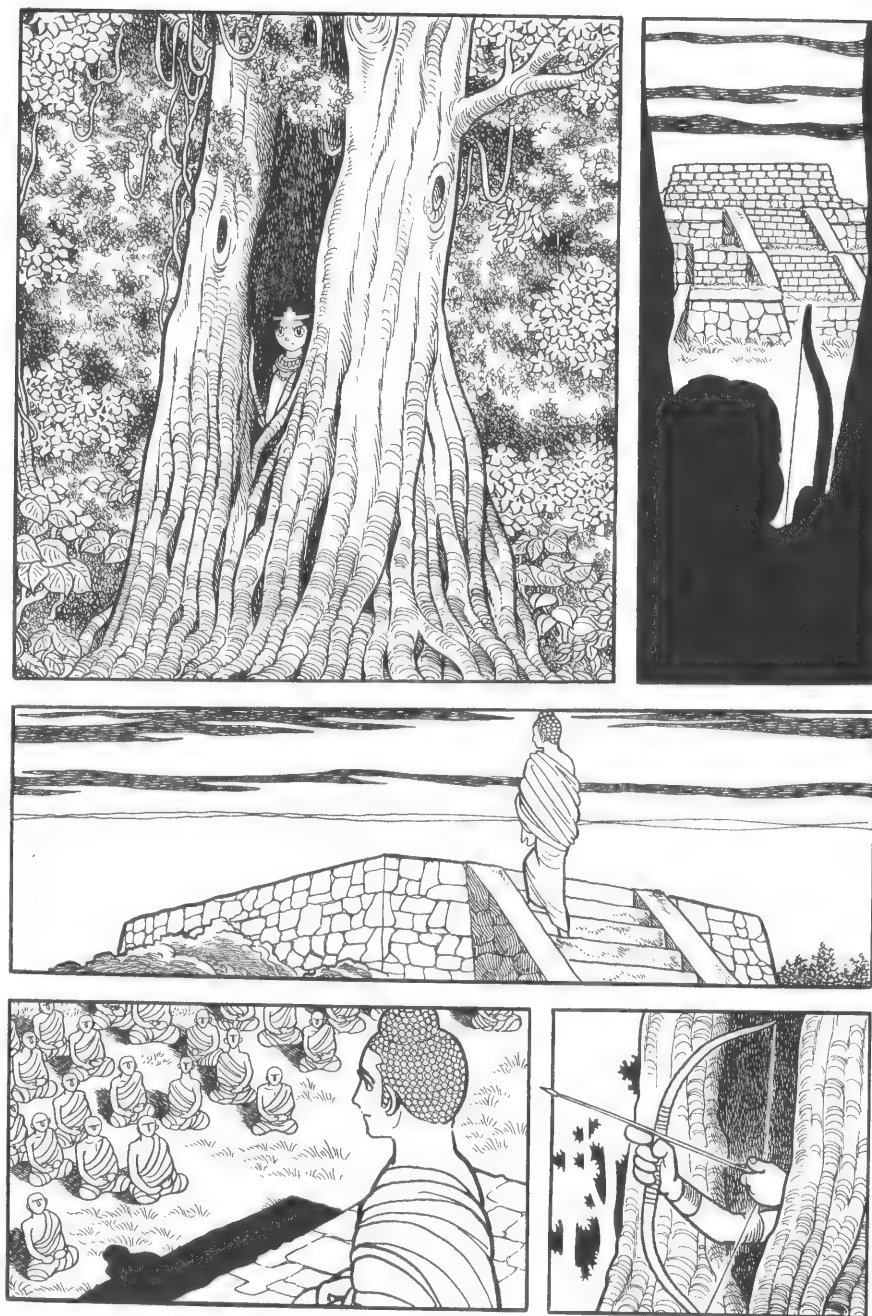
TOMORROW, BUDDHA WILL BE PREACHING ON THAT PLATFORM, YEAH? WELL, THOSE'LL BE HIS LAST WORDS.

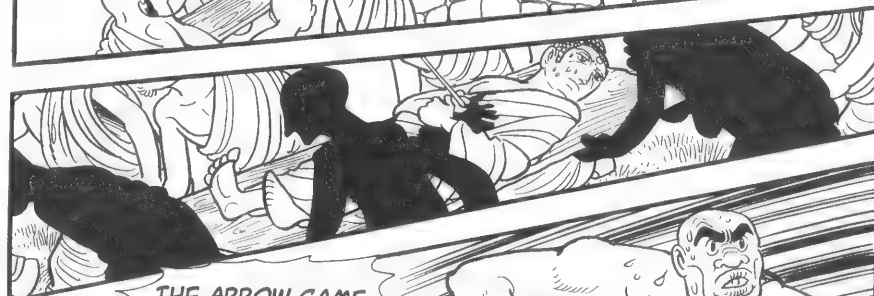
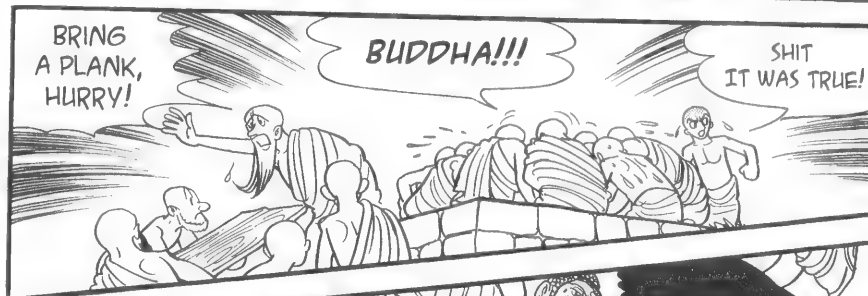
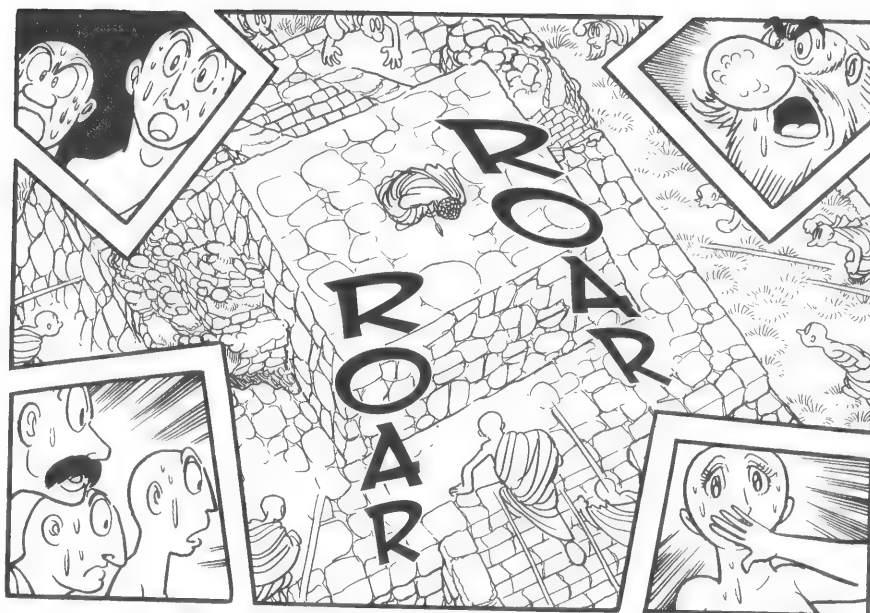
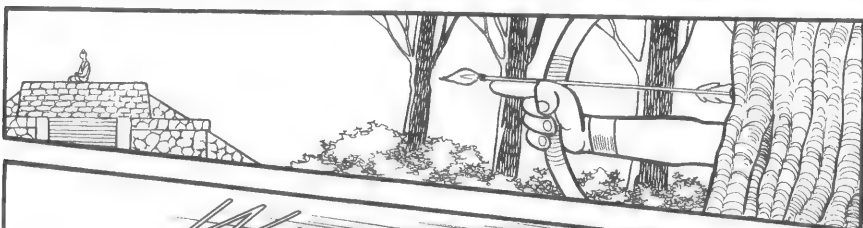
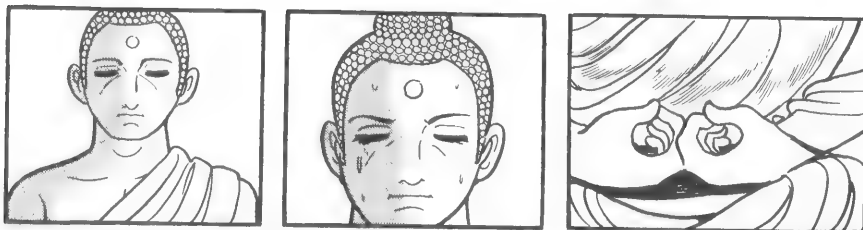
WHAT?!

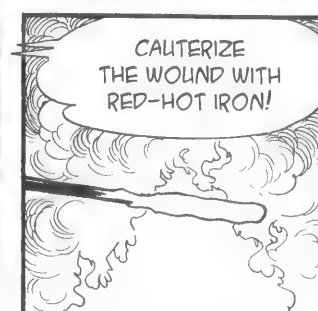
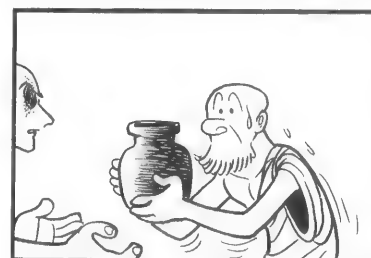
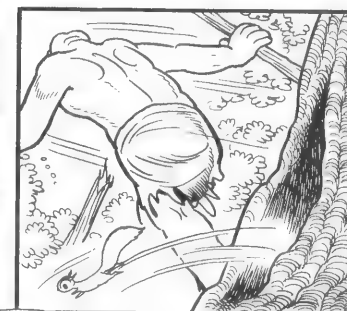


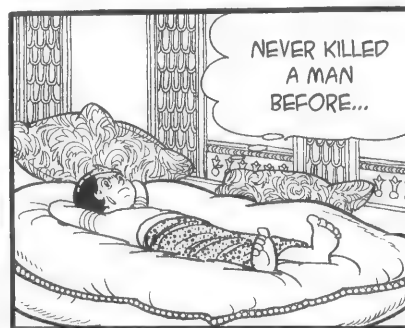
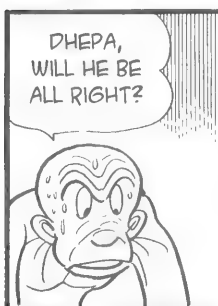
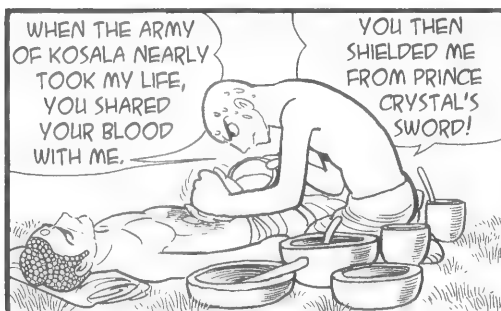


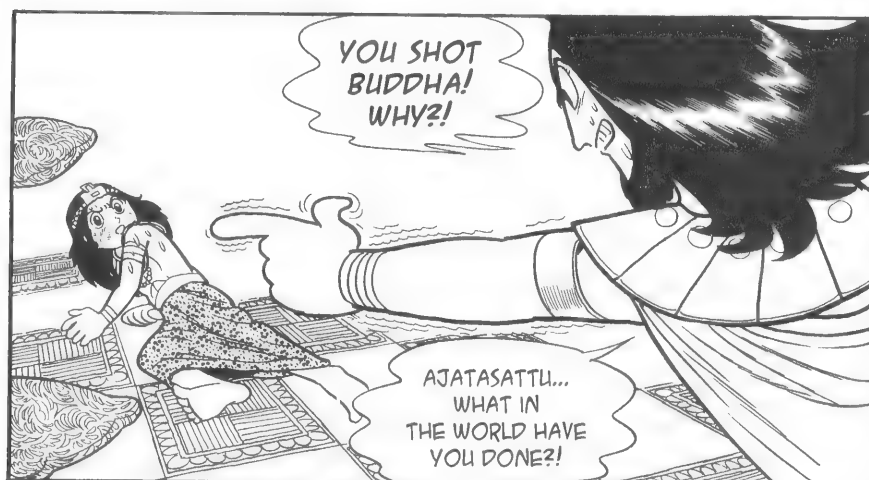


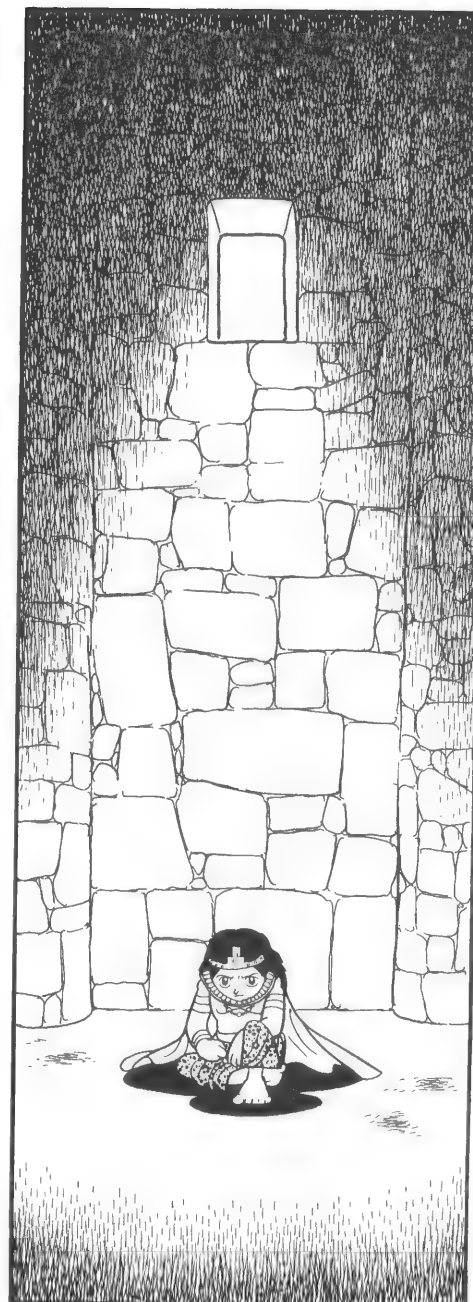
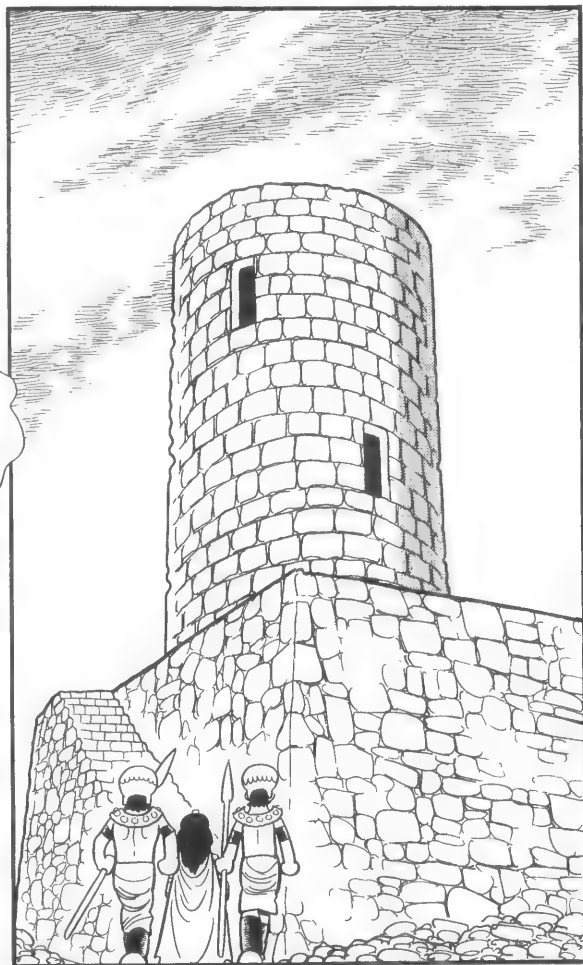
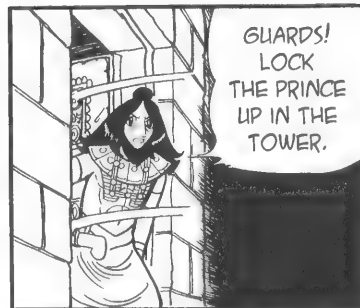


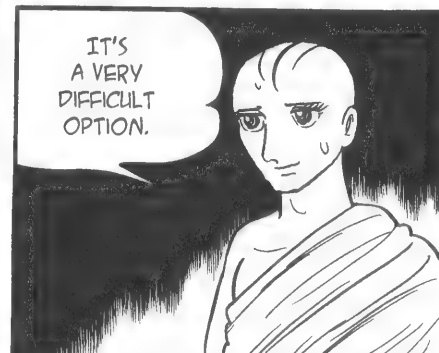
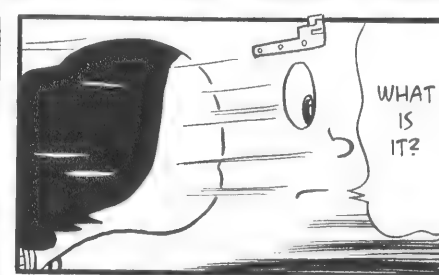
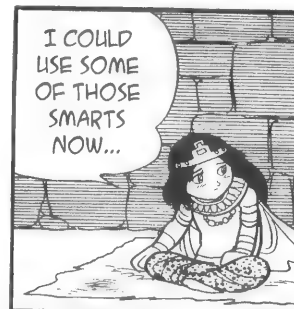
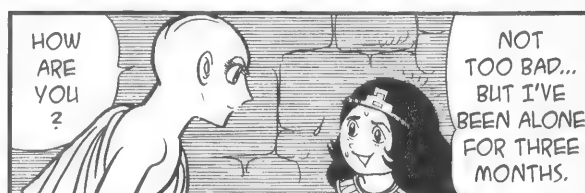


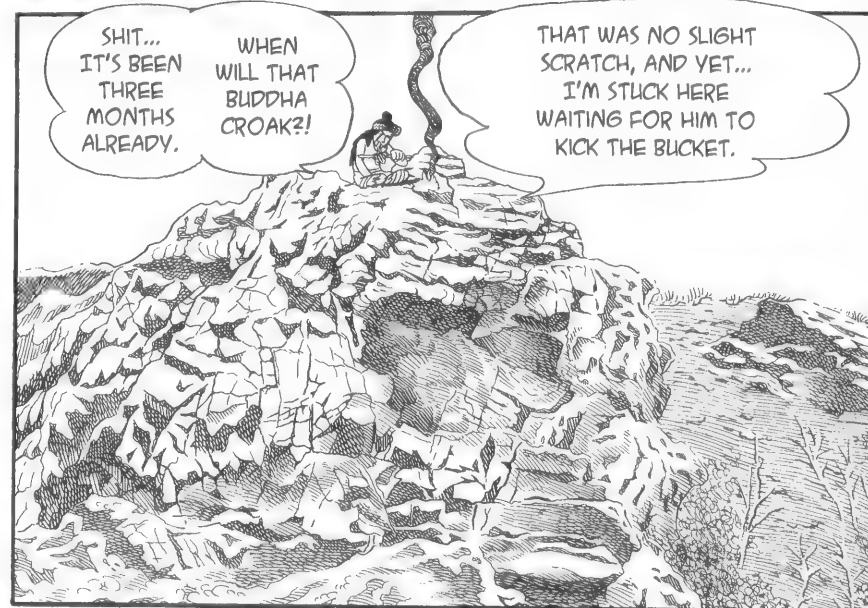
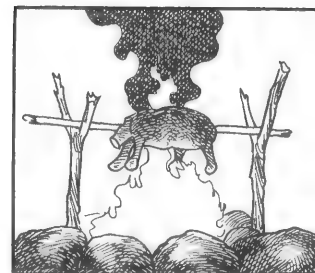
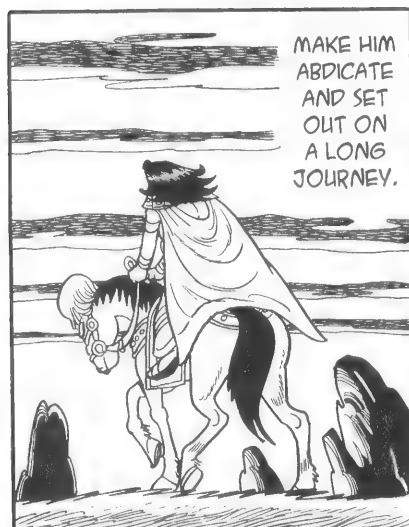
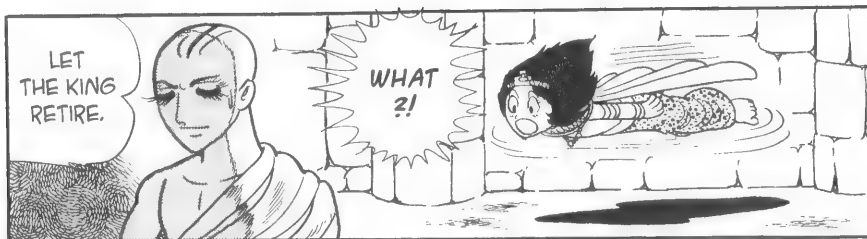






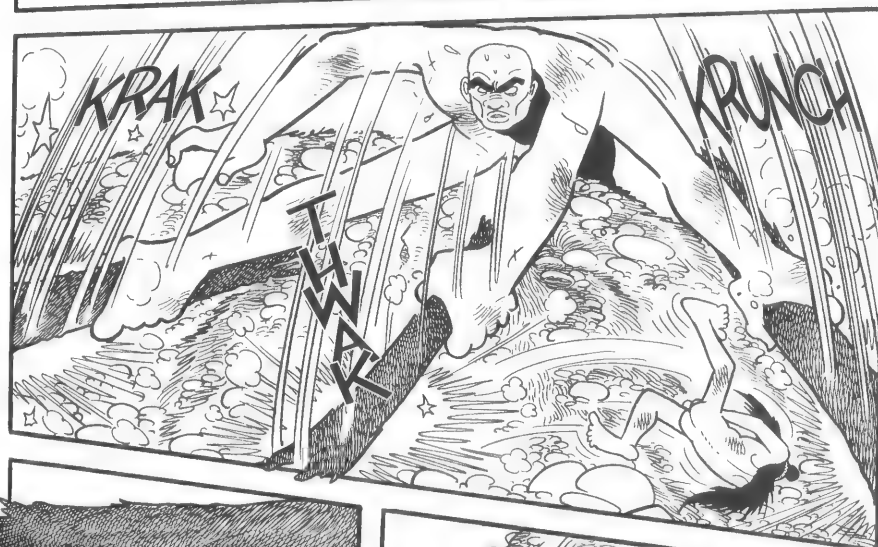
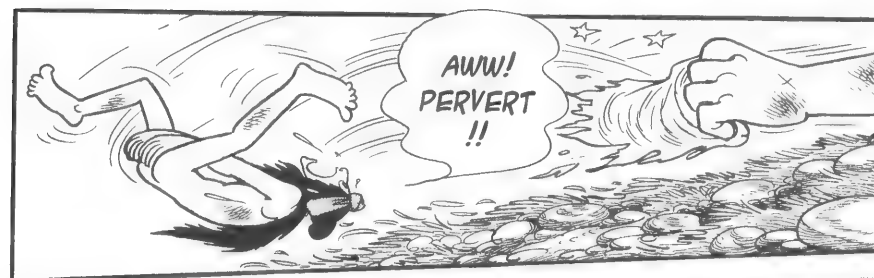




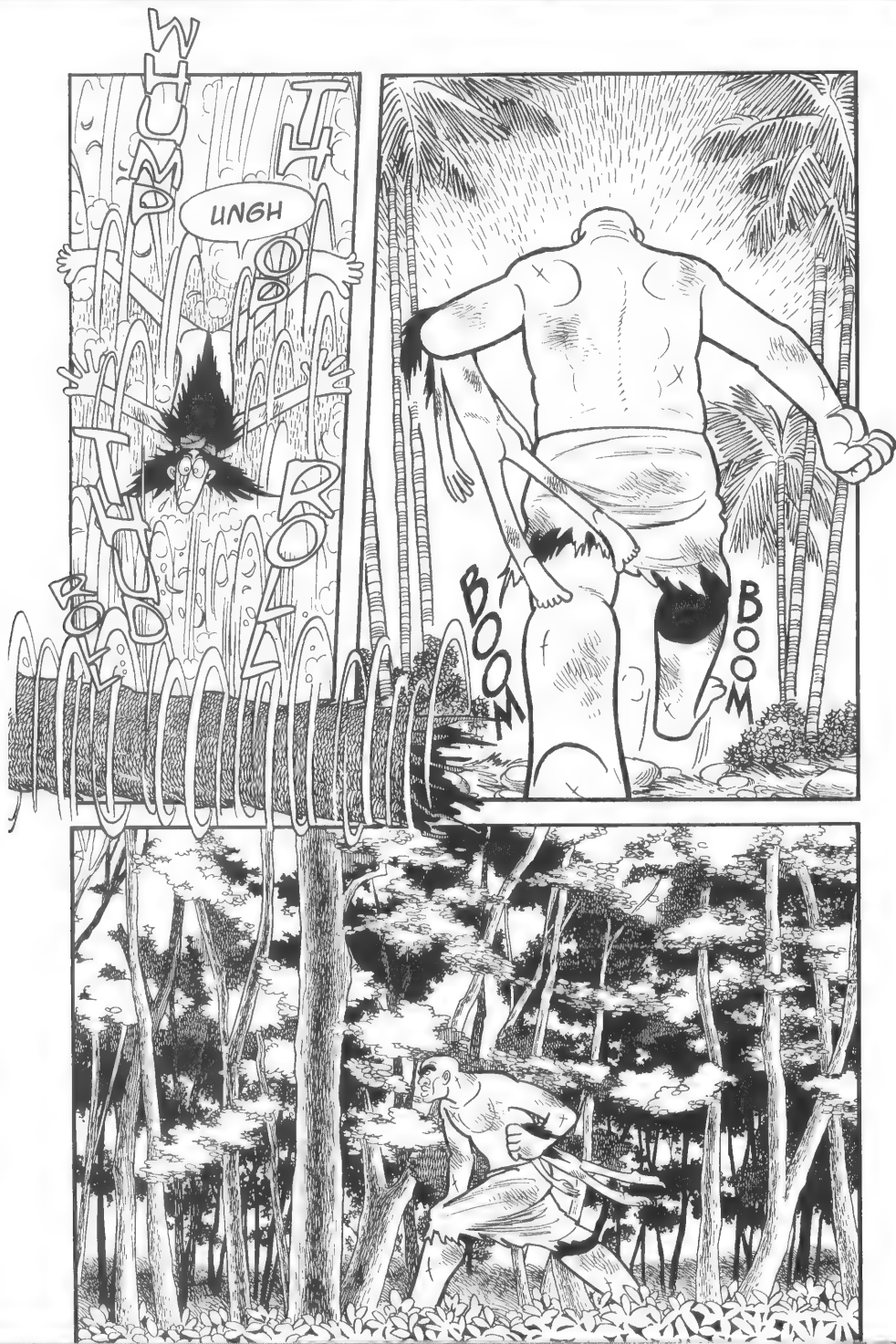


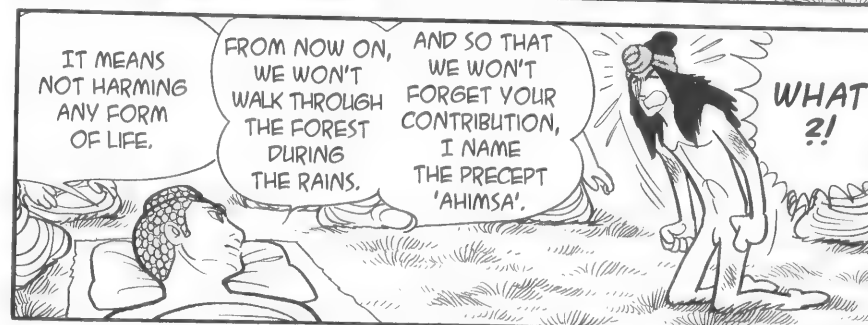
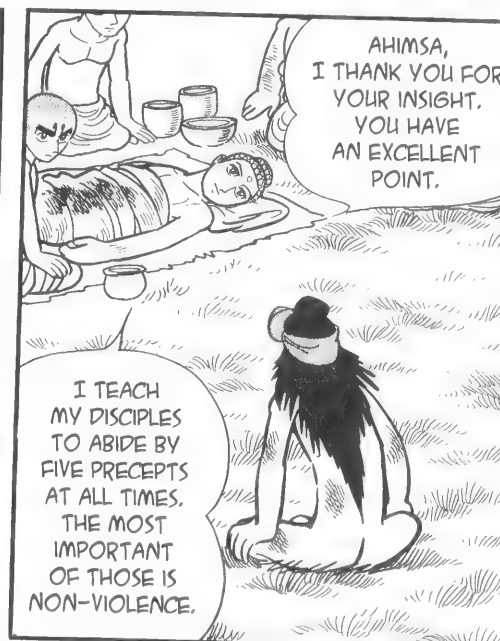
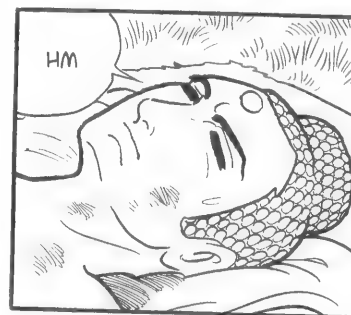
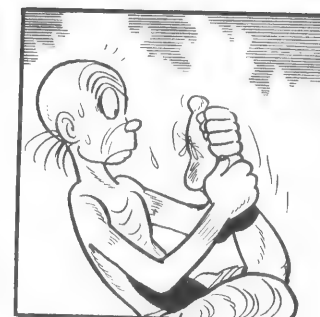
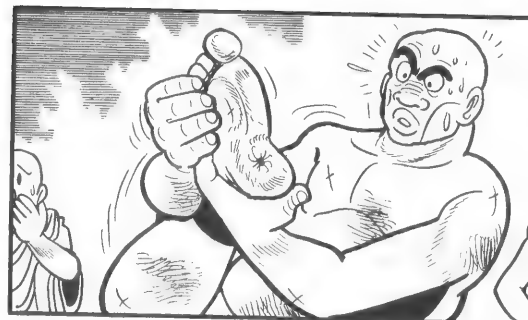


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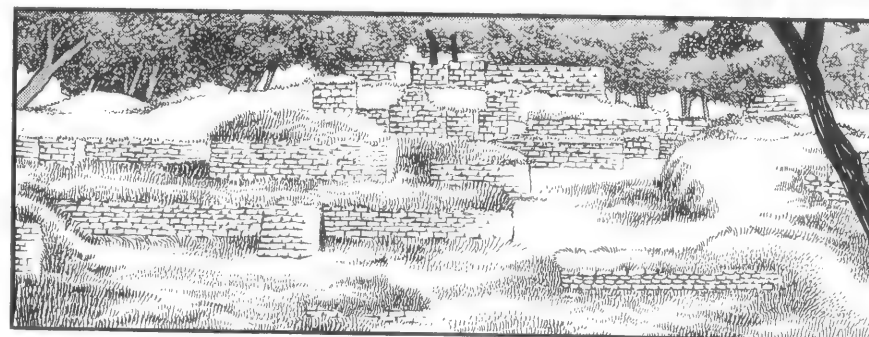
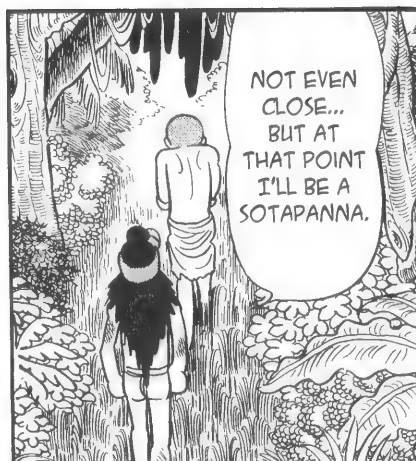


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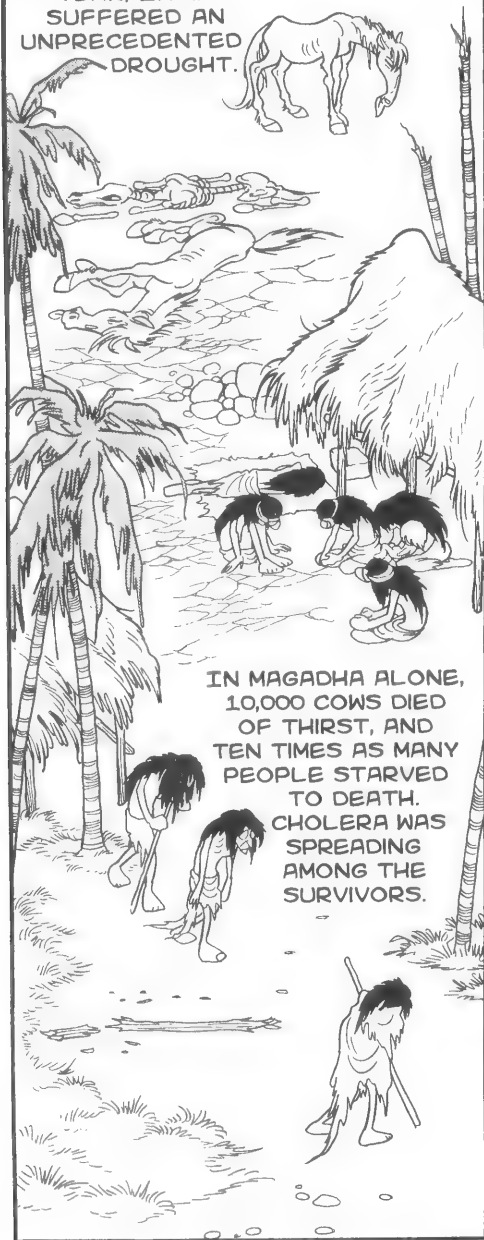




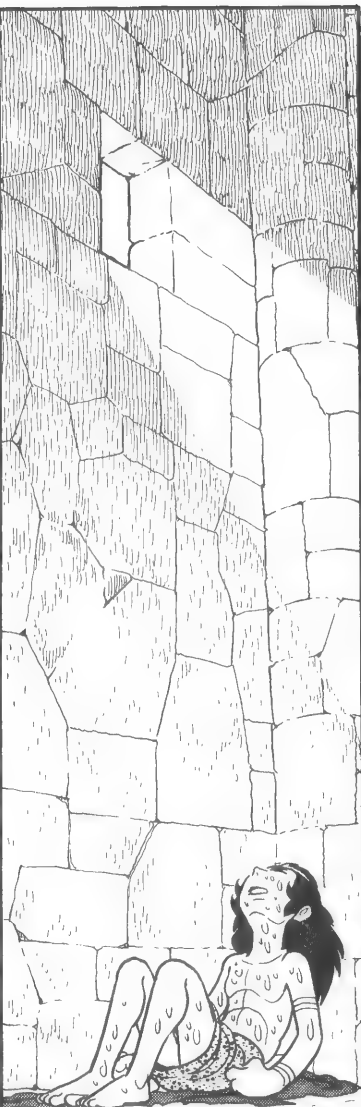
CHAPTER TEN

IMPRISONED PRINCE

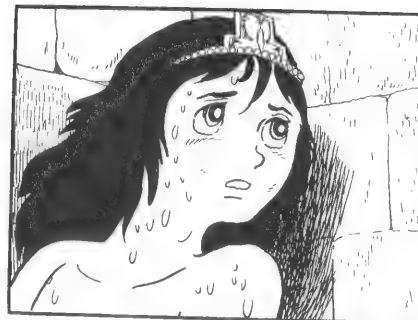
IN MARCH THAT YEAR, INDIA SUFFERED AN UNPRECEDENTED DROUGHT.



IN MAGADHA ALONE, 10,000 COWS DIED OF THIRST, AND TEN TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE STARVED TO DEATH. CHOLERA WAS SPREADING AMONG THE SURVIVORS.



HOT, DRY, THE TOWER WHERE THE PRINCE WAS CONFINED WAS LIKE THE INSIDE OF A CHIMNEY, A DEATH CHAMBER.



PRINCE, I BRING TODAY'S RATION OF COOLED WATER.

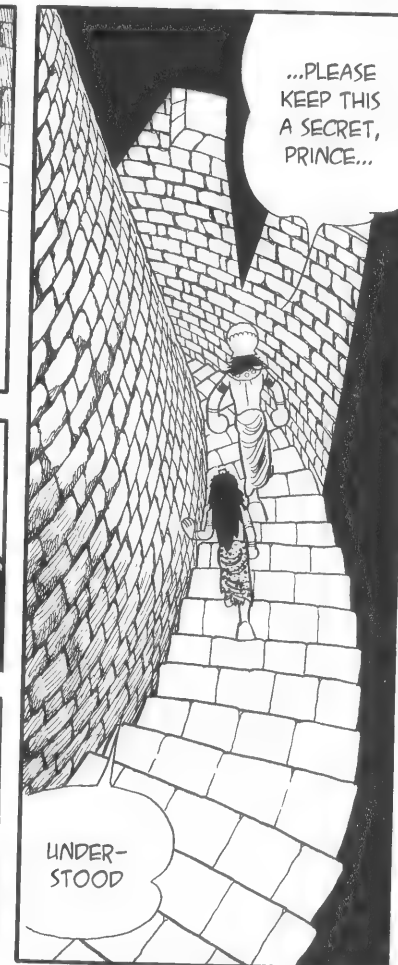
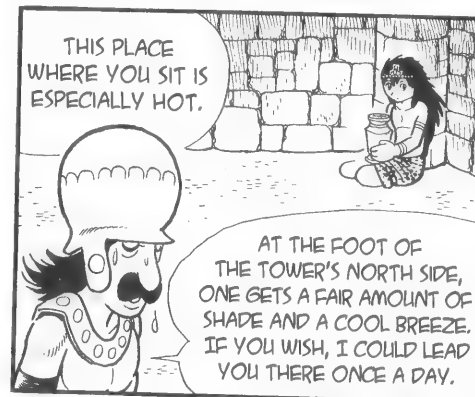
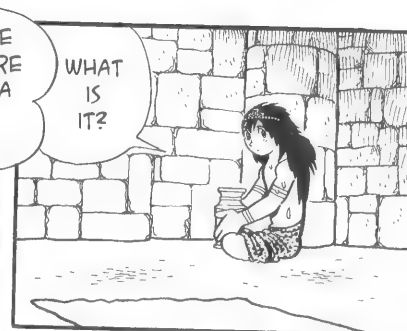
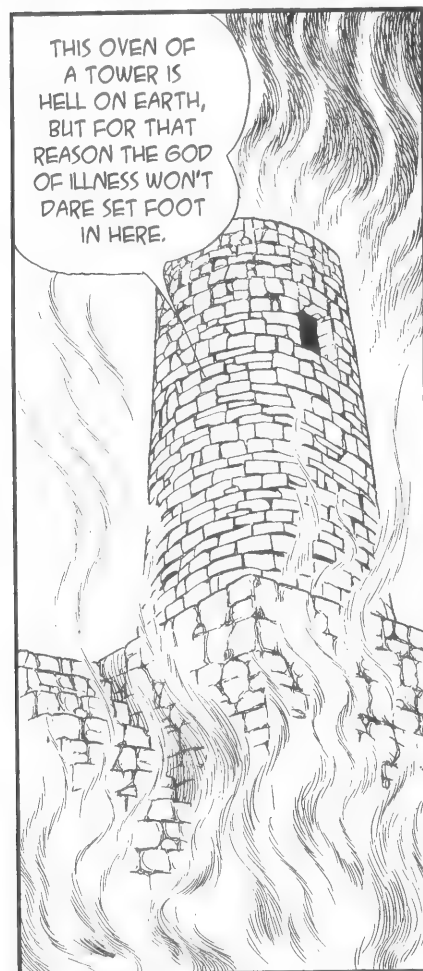
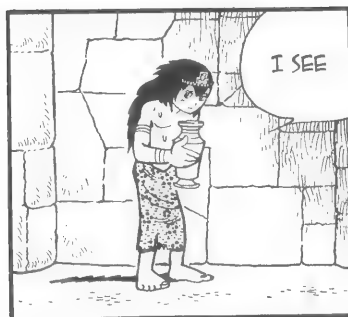


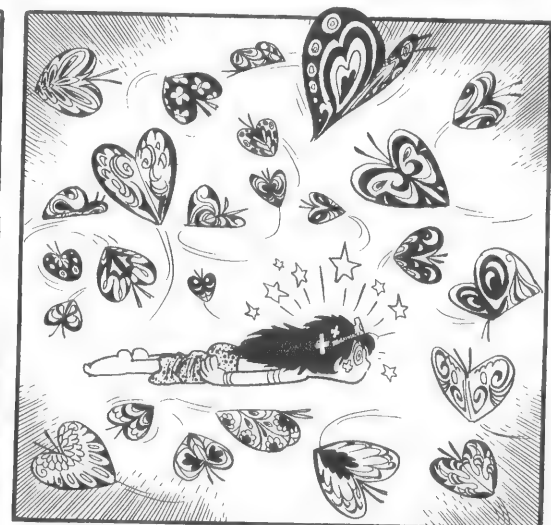
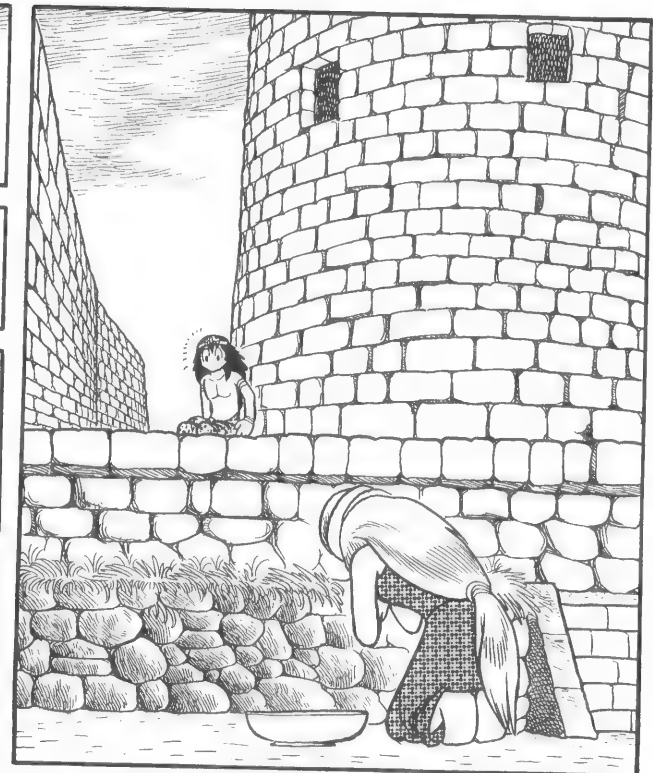
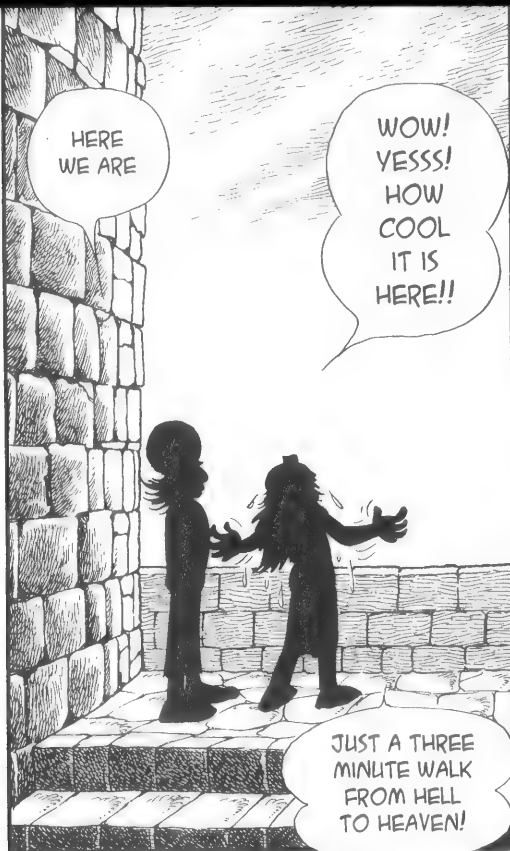
GIMME!!

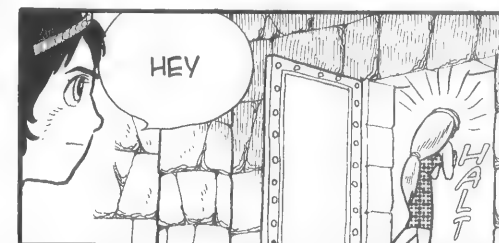
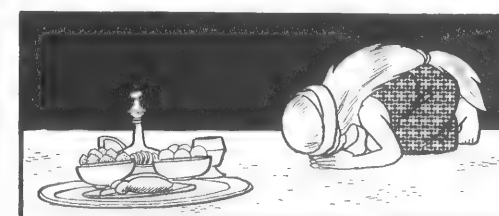
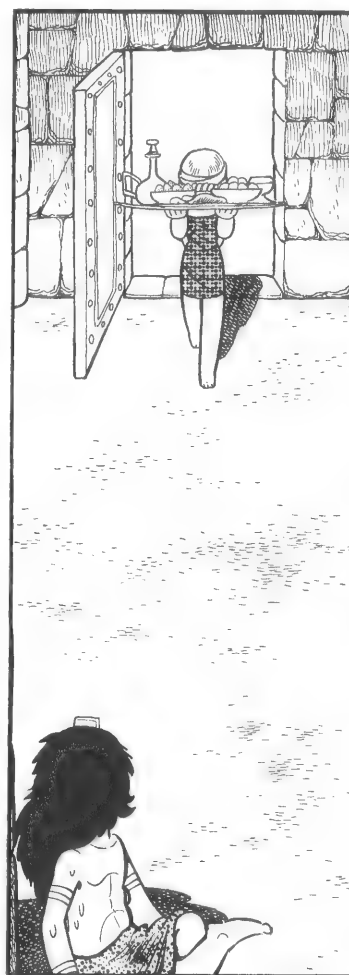
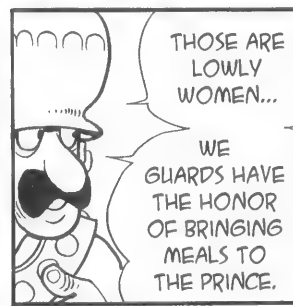
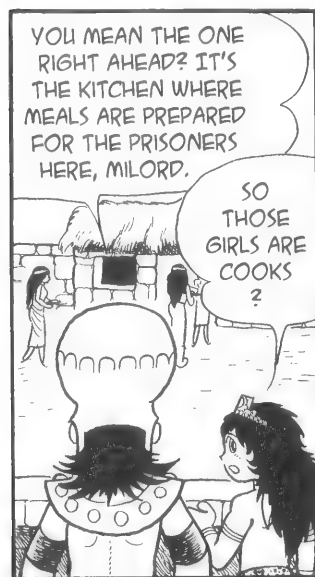
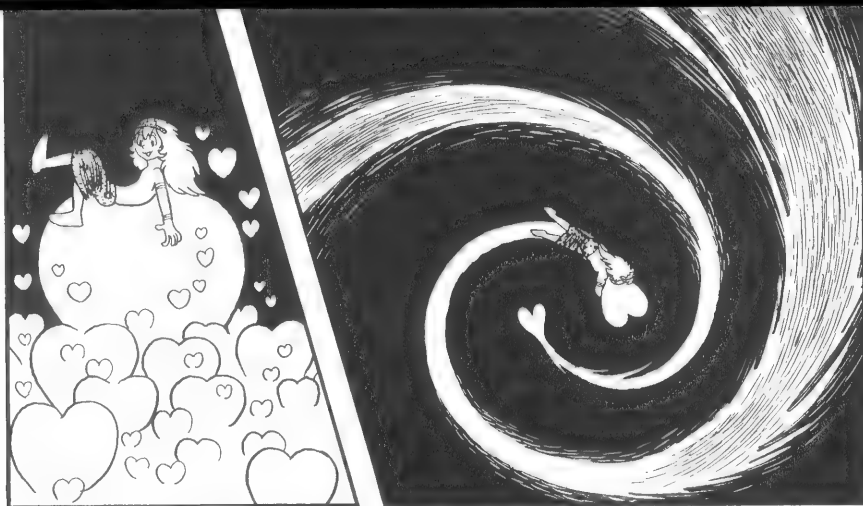


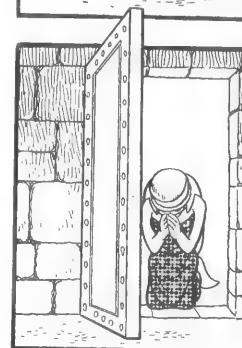
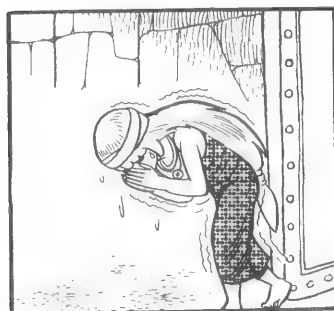
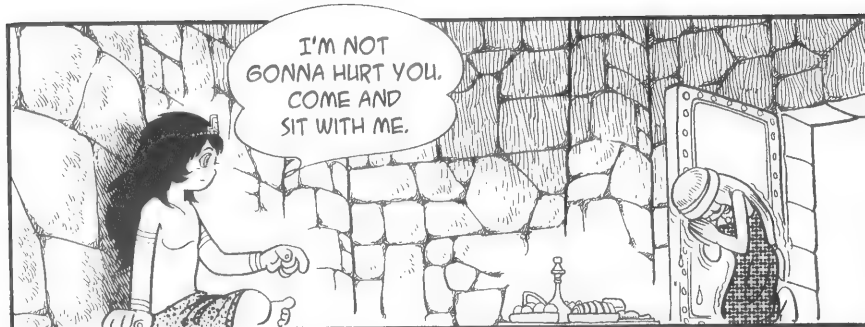
HOW IS IT OUTSIDE? PEOPLE STILL DROPPING LIKE FLIES?

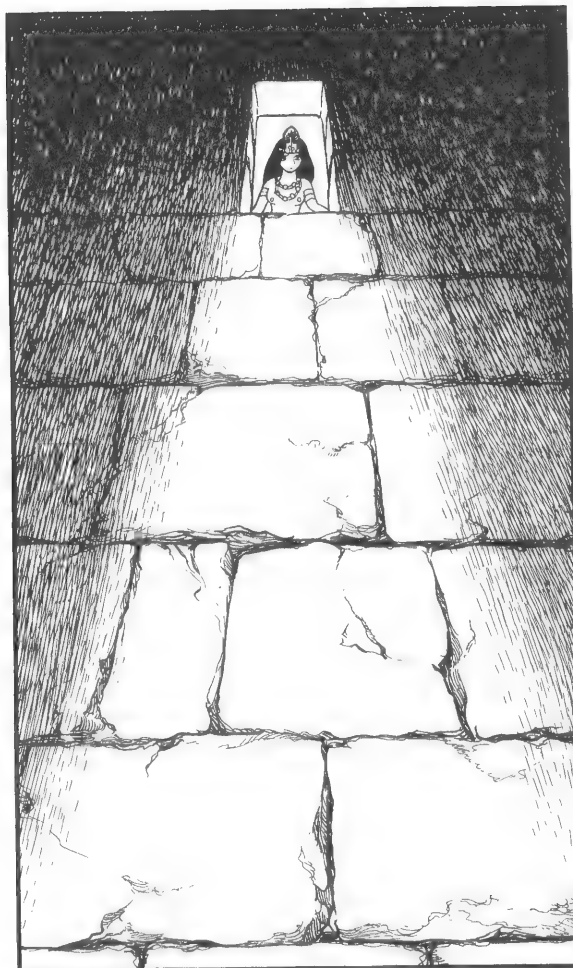
MAYBE 50 OF OUR TROOPS DIE OF ILLNESS EVERY DAY. THE CITY STREETS ARE FLOODED WITH CORPSES.











PRINCE
AJATASATTU
IS TAKING
HIS REST.

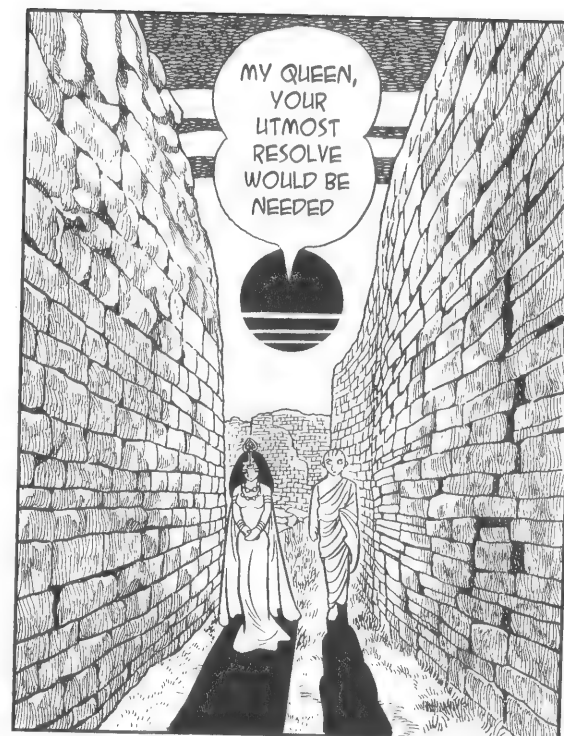
YES,
WE
SHOULD
LET HIM
REST.



DEVADATTA,
YOU ARE THE
BOY'S MOST
TRUSTED
CONFIDANT.
MORE SO
THAN HIS OWN
PARENTS.

YOU KNOW
WHAT'S BEEN
WEIGHING
ON HIS MIND.
HOW MAY
WE HELP
HIM?

THIS IS NOT
AN EASY
MATTER...



MY QUEEN,
YOUR
UTMOST
RESOLVE
WOULD BE
NEEDED

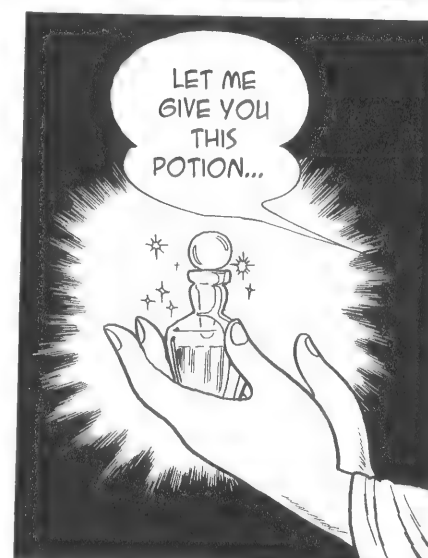


SPEAK
THEN, I'M
READY!

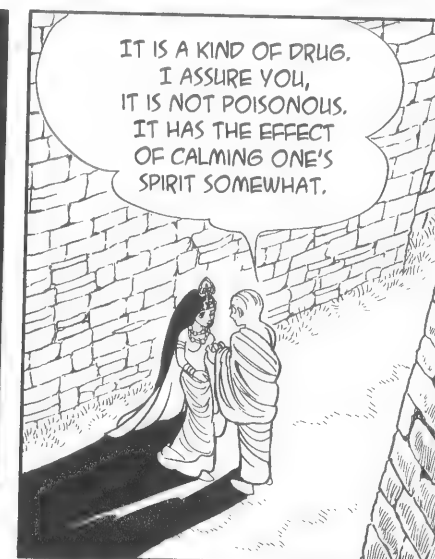
I'LL BEAR
ANYTHING
IF BY DOING
SO THE
PRINCE AND
THE KING
WILL
FIND
PEACE.



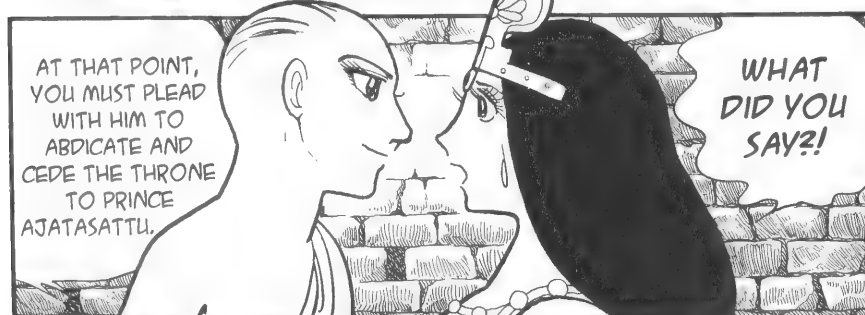
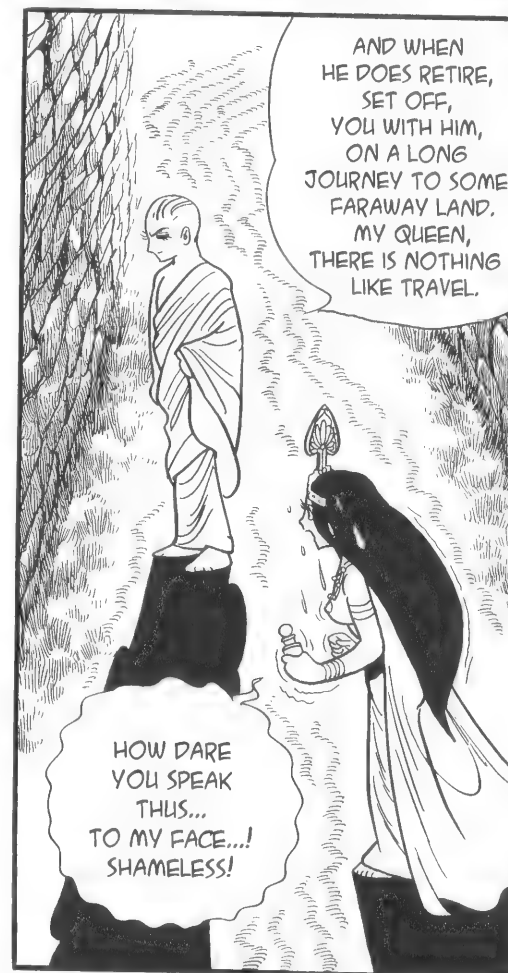
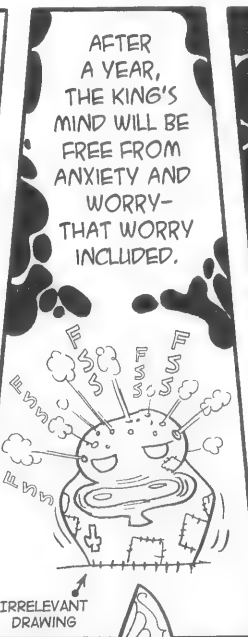
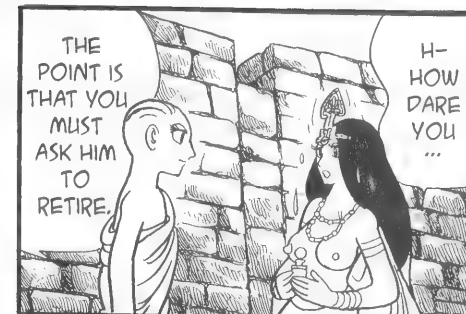
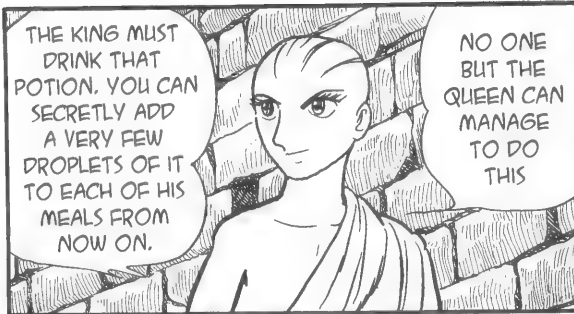
WELL
THEN
...

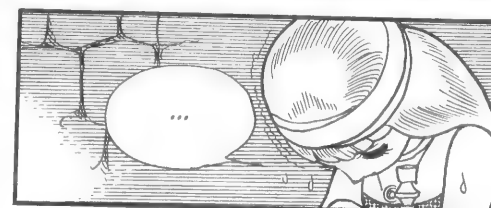
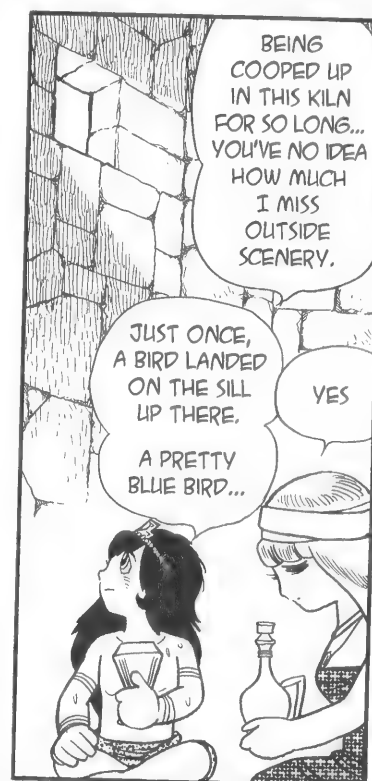
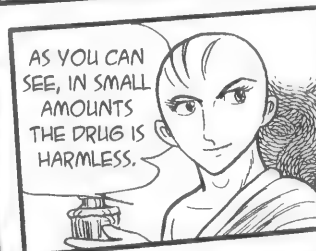


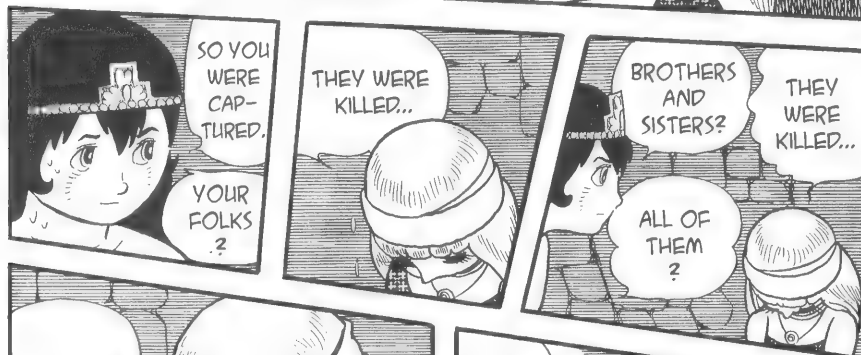
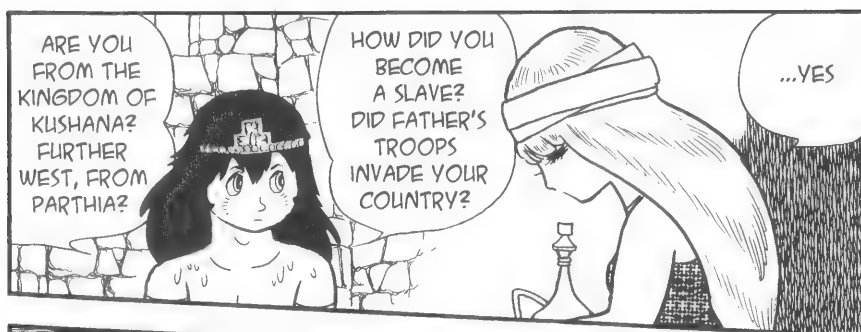
LET ME
GIVE YOU
THIS
POTION...

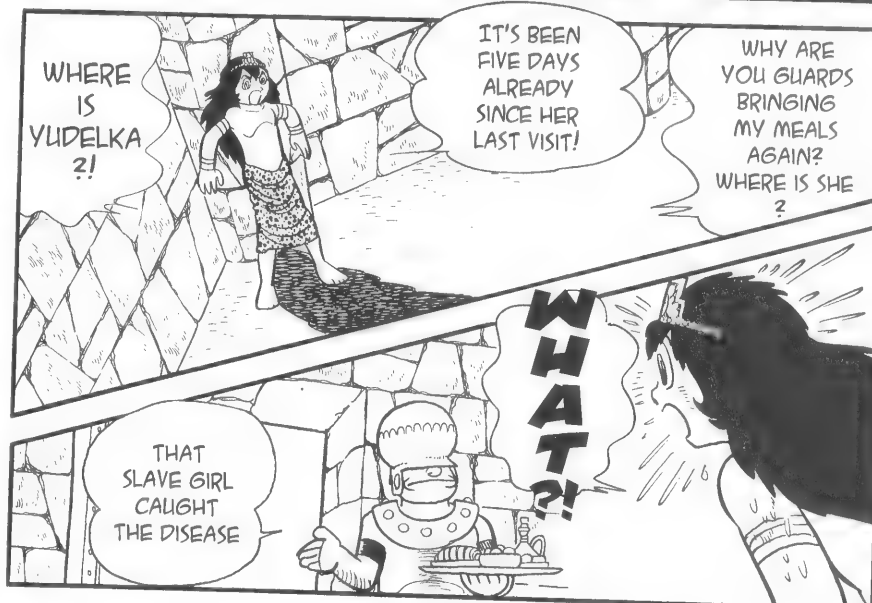
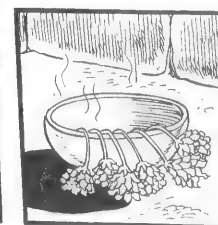
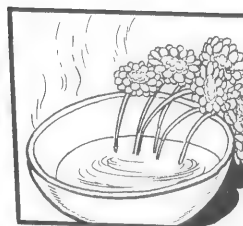
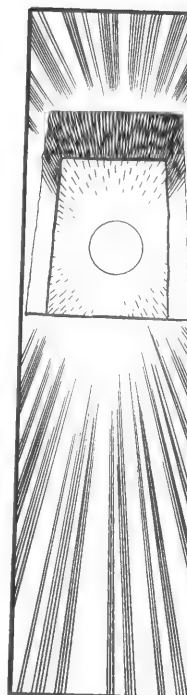
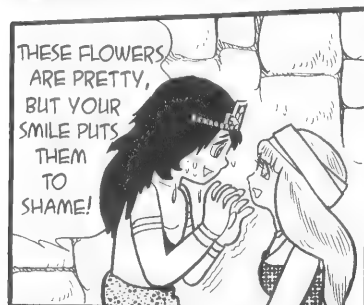
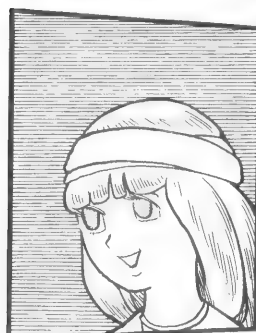
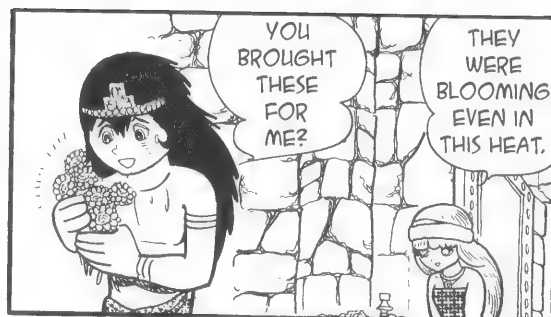
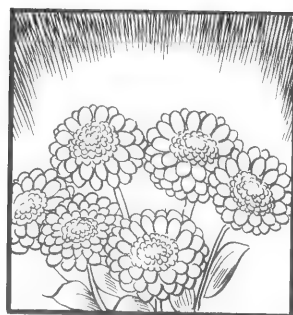


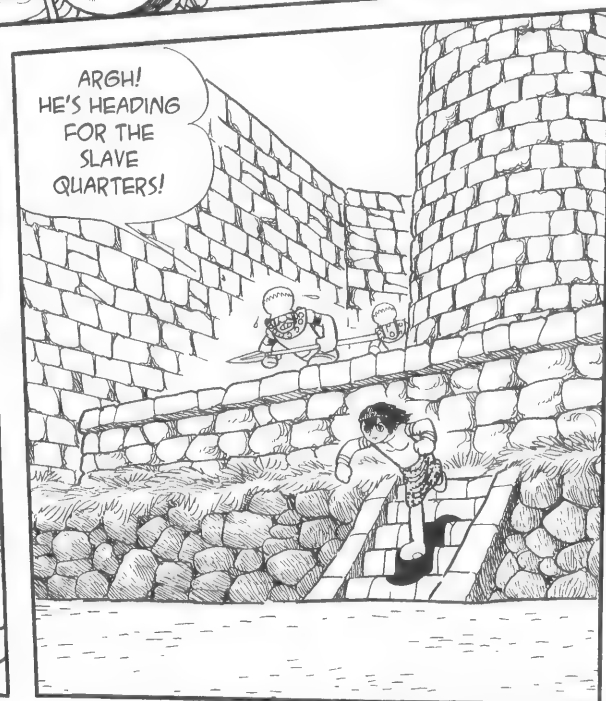
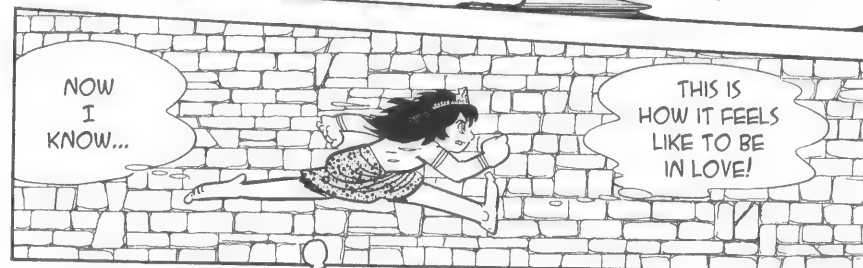
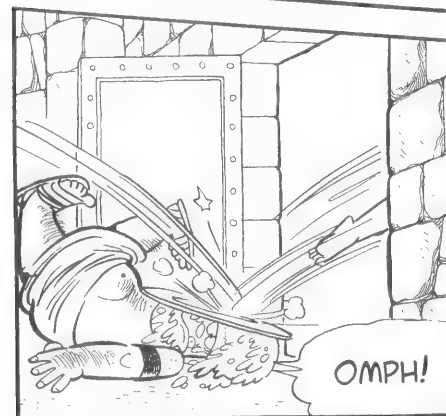
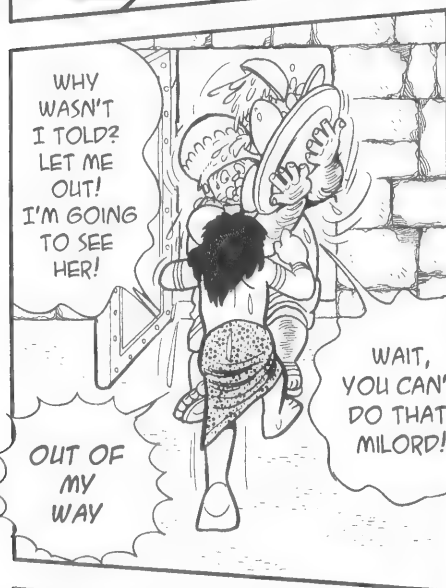
IT IS A KIND OF DRUG.
I ASSURE YOU,
IT IS NOT POISONOUS.
IT HAS THE EFFECT
OF CALMING ONE'S
SPIRIT SOMEWHAT.



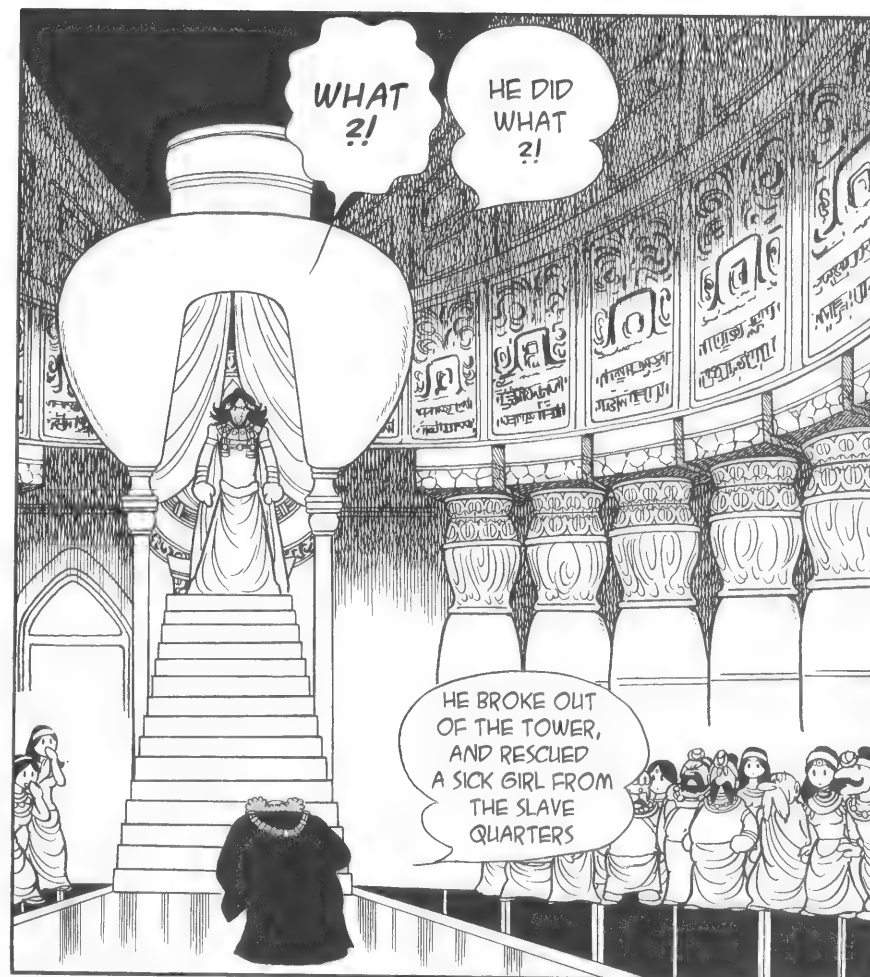
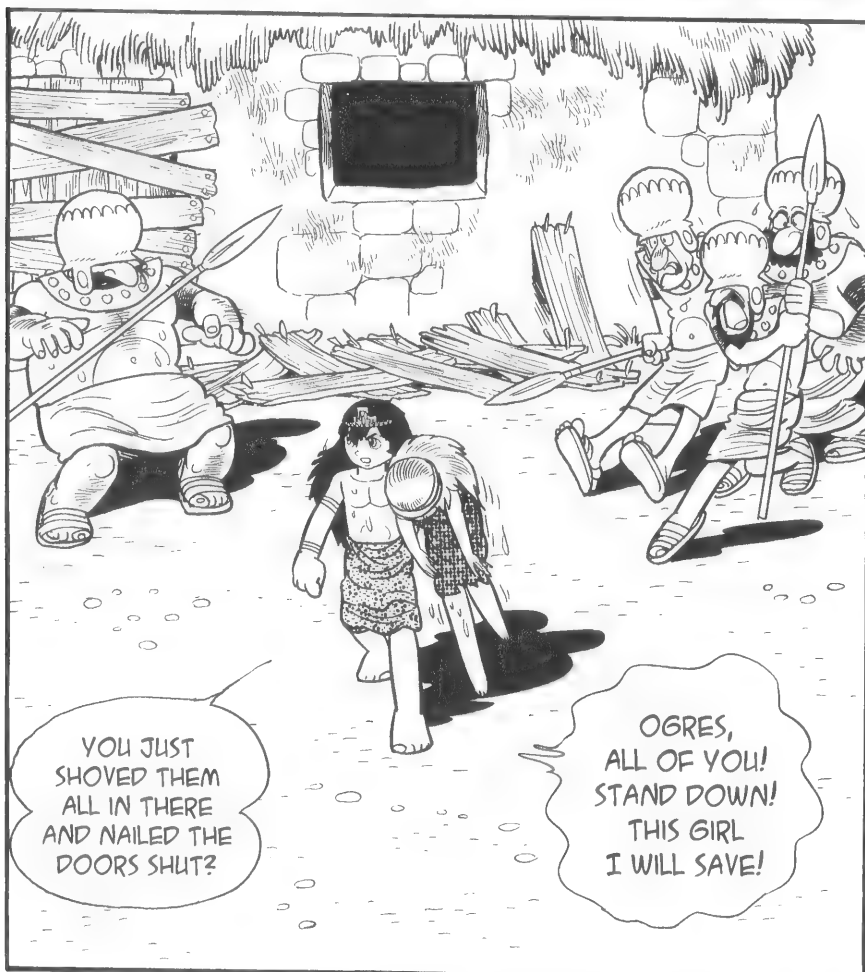














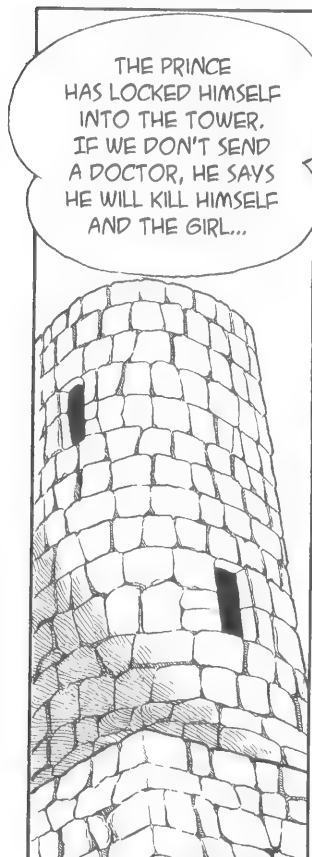
HE'S
GONE
NUTS!

OUR BEST
DOCTOR
FOR
A SLAVE?
THE BRAT'S
TOO FULL OF
HIMSELF...



DRAW THE
GIRL AWAY
FROM HIM,
AND
KILL HER.

WELL,
YOU
SEE...



THE PRINCE
HAS LOCKED HIMSELF
INTO THE TOWER.
IF WE DON'T SEND
A DOCTOR, HE SAYS
HE WILL KILL HIMSELF
AND THE GIRL...



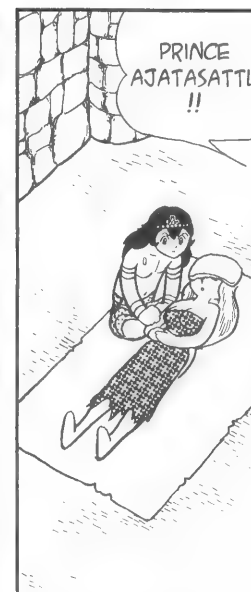
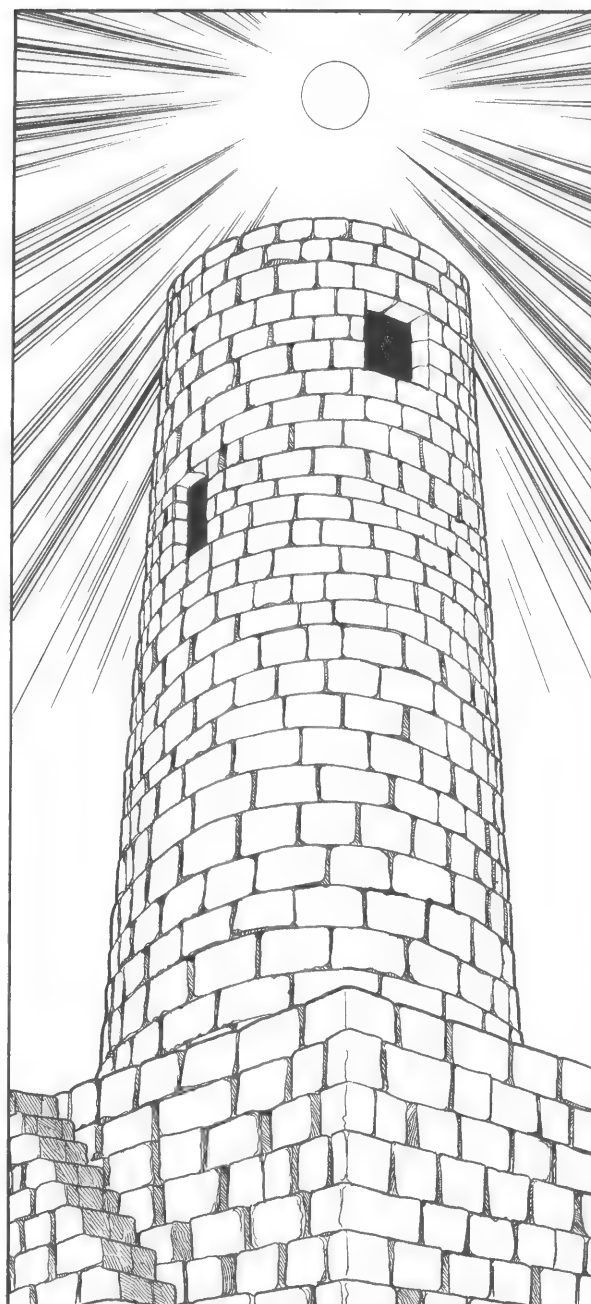
HE'S GOT
A LOT OF
NERVE,
PESTERING
US FROM
PRISON.

I BELIEVE
OUR ONLY
CHOICE IS TO
COMPLY...

LET US FETCH
THE DOCTOR,
BUT WE'LL
HAVE HIM TREAT
THE SLAVE IN
HER OWN HUT.



GET
IT
DONE!

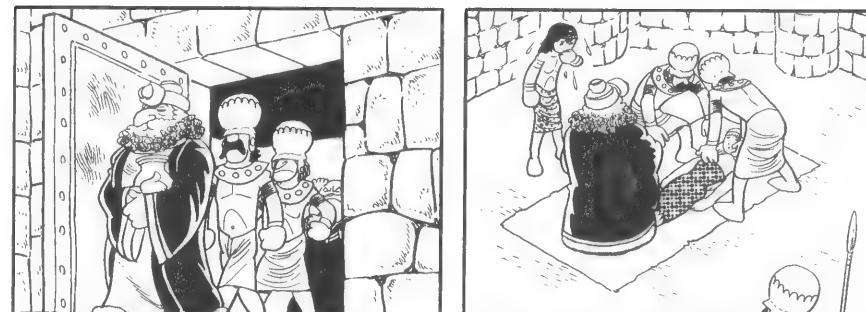
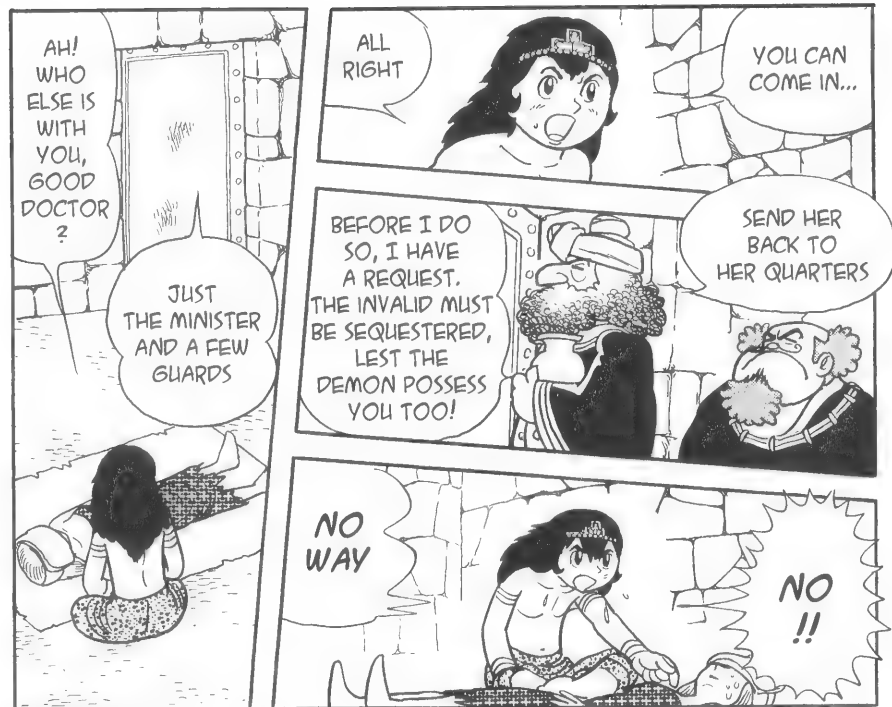


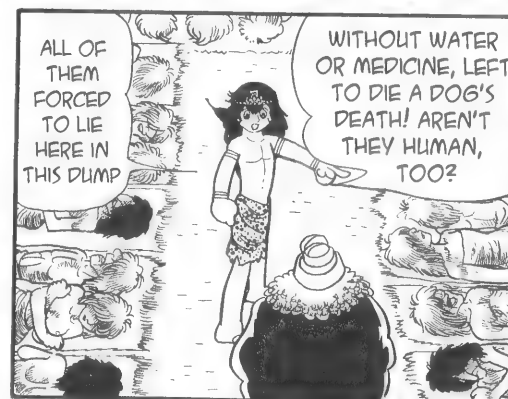
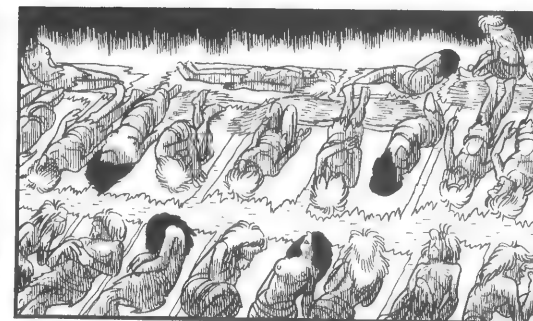
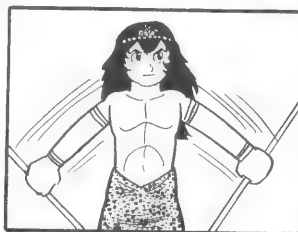
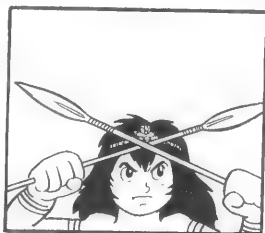
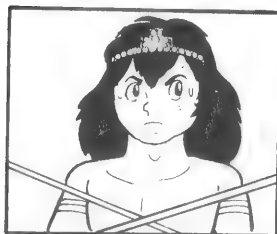
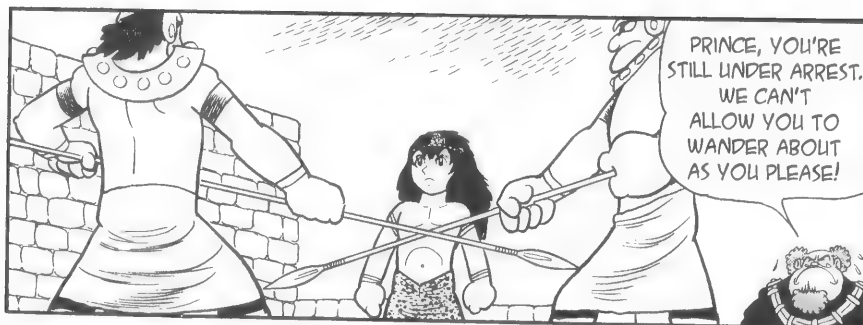
PRINCE
AJATASATTU
!!



MY LORD,
PLEASE
OPEN
THE
DOOR!

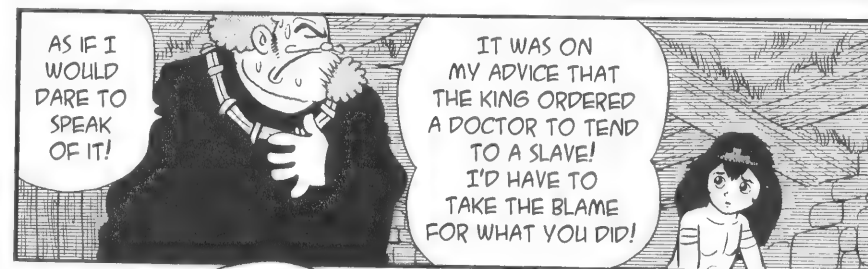
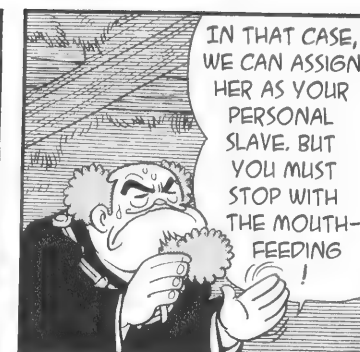
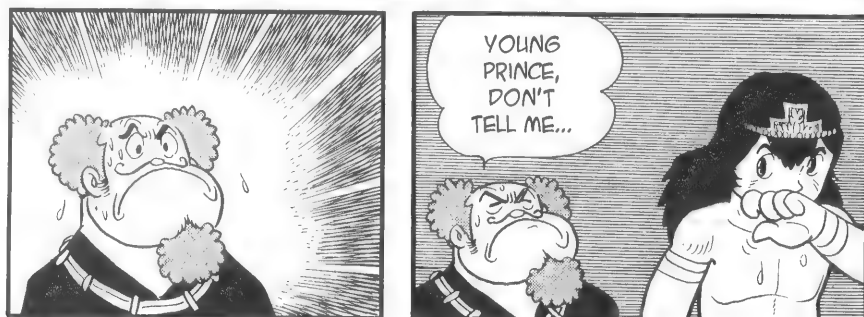
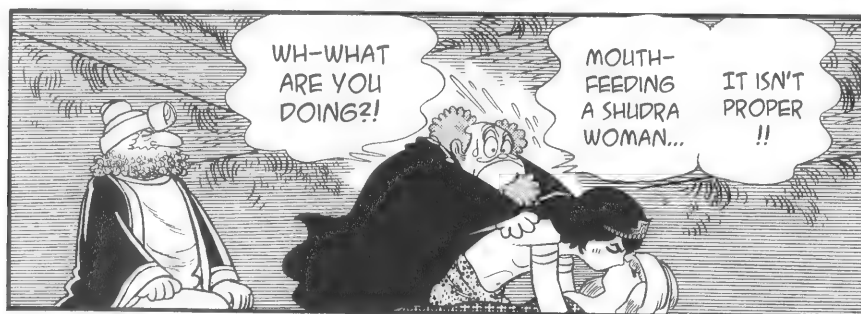
IT'S ME,
THE
DOCTOR
ZIWAKA
!



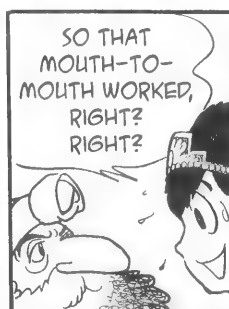
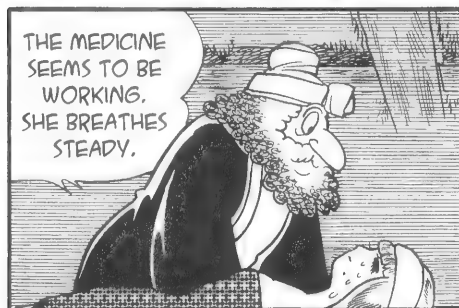
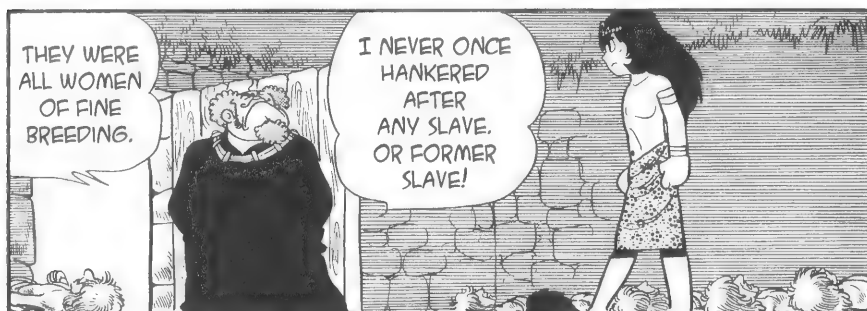
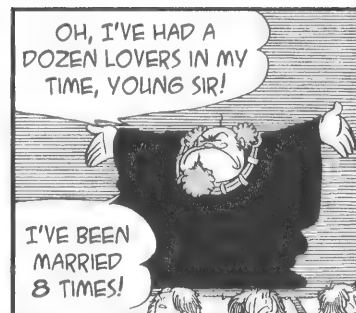


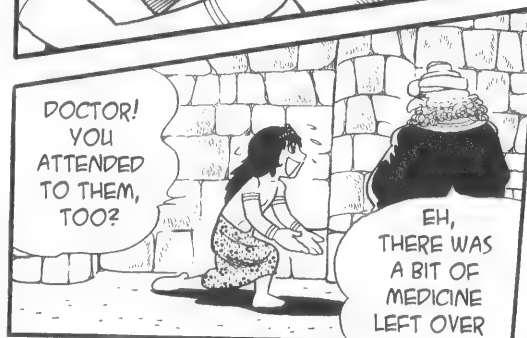
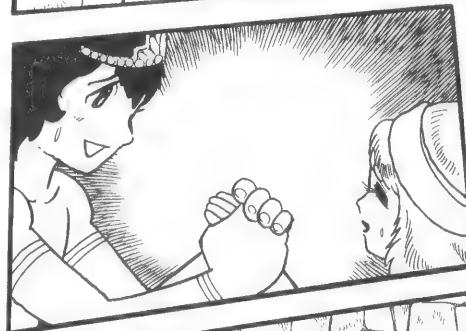
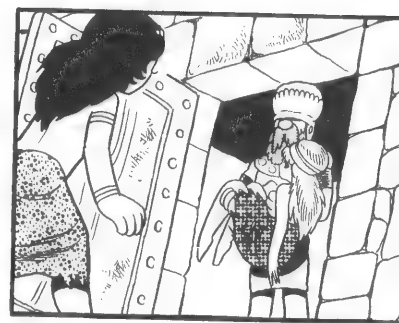
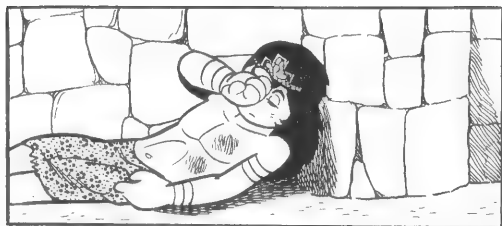
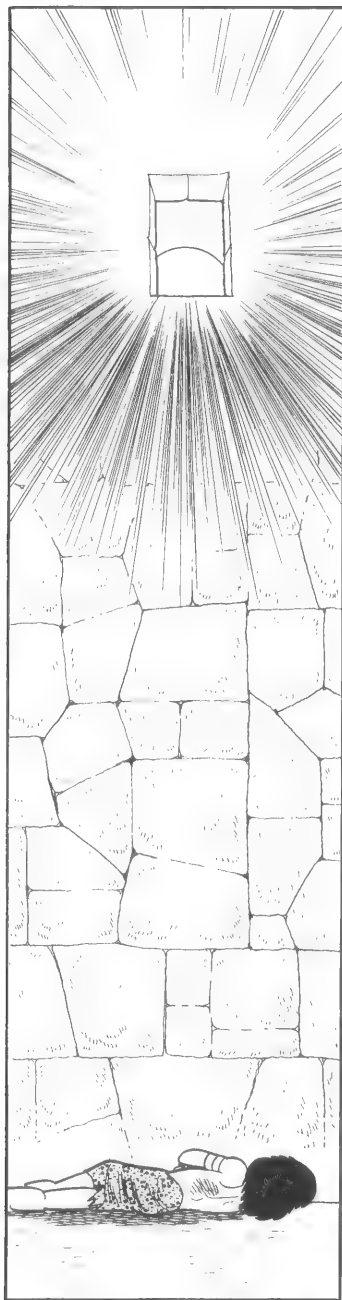
WITHOUT WATER OR MEDICINE, LEFT TO DIE A DOG'S DEATH! AREN'T THEY HUMAN, TOO?

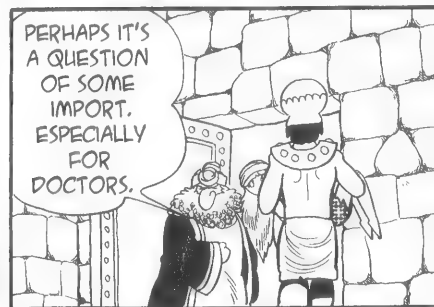










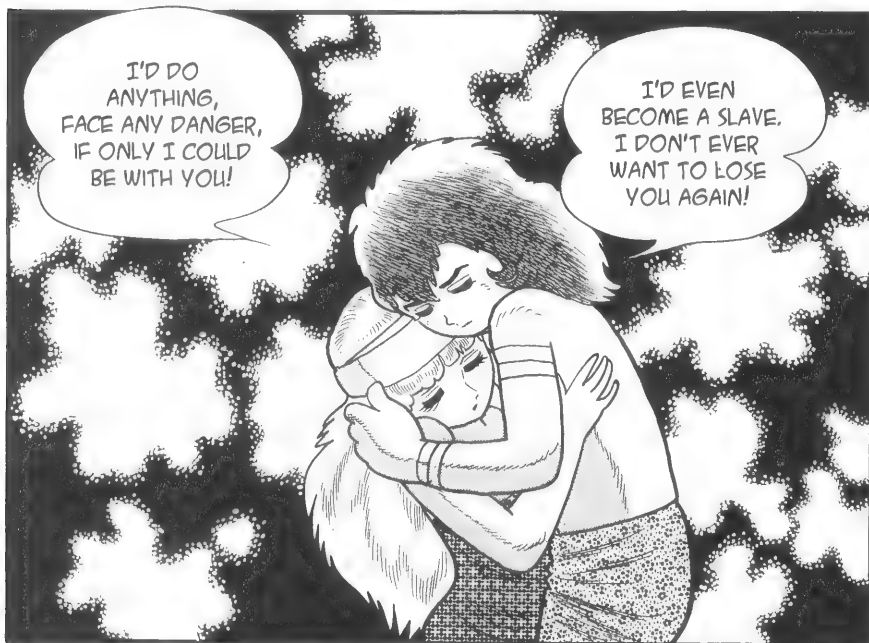






YUDELKA,
I LOVE
YOU

DON'T YOU
SEE?
I'D GIVE
MY LIFE
FOR YOU!

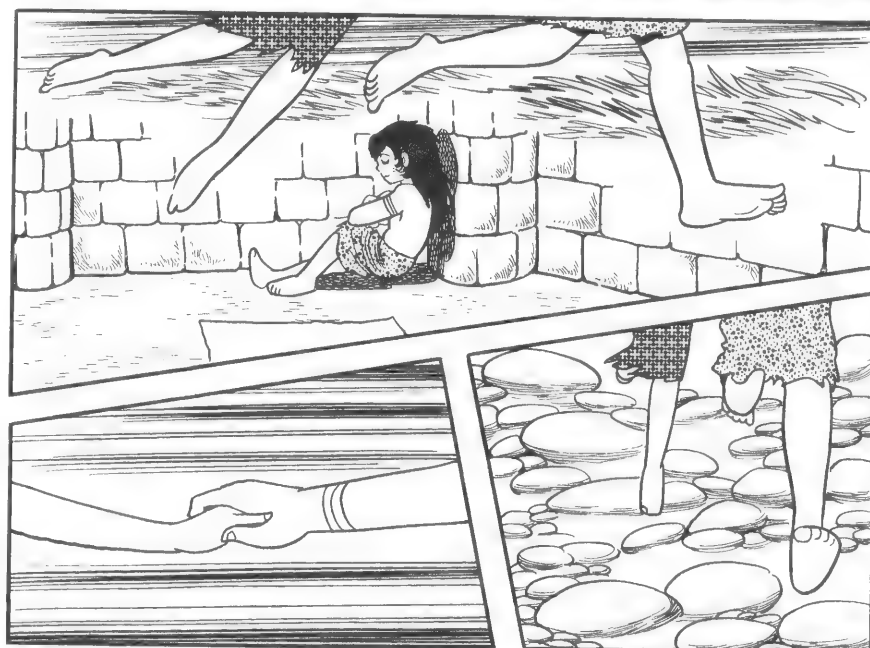
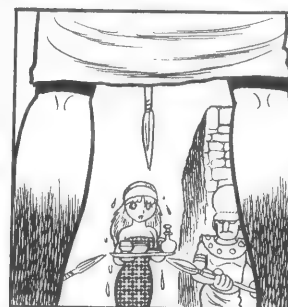
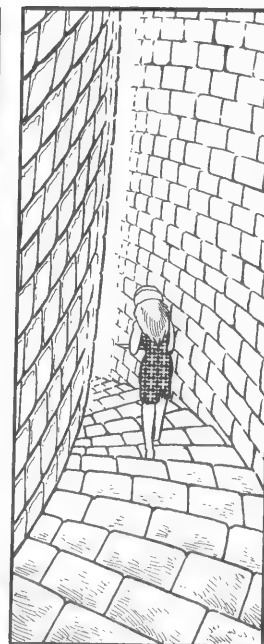


DON'T
WORRY

SLEEP
ON IT,
ALL RIGHT?



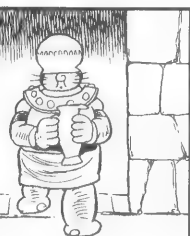
I'LL
WORK OUT
THE WHOLE
PLAN



YUDELKA, OH YUDELKA!
TOMORROW, WE WILL FLY AWAY
LIKE TWO BIRDS,
TO FIND OUR TRUE FREE
HEAVEN AND EARTH.

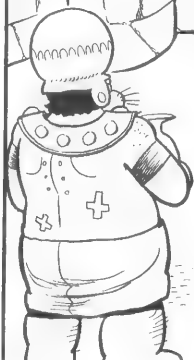


YOUR
WATER,
PRINCE



THANKS...
WHERE'S
THE SLAVE
GIRL,
YUDELKA?

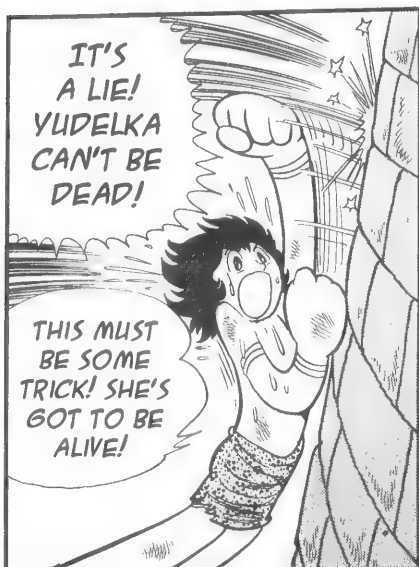
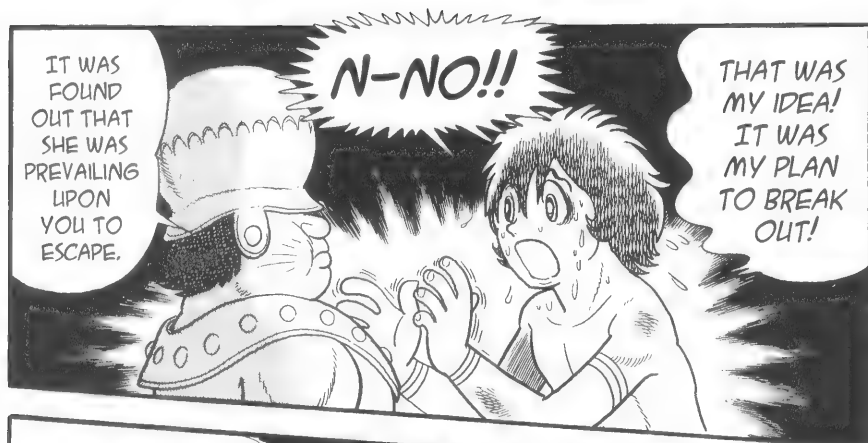
SIR, SHE WAS
PUT TO
DEATH JUST
THIS MORNING.

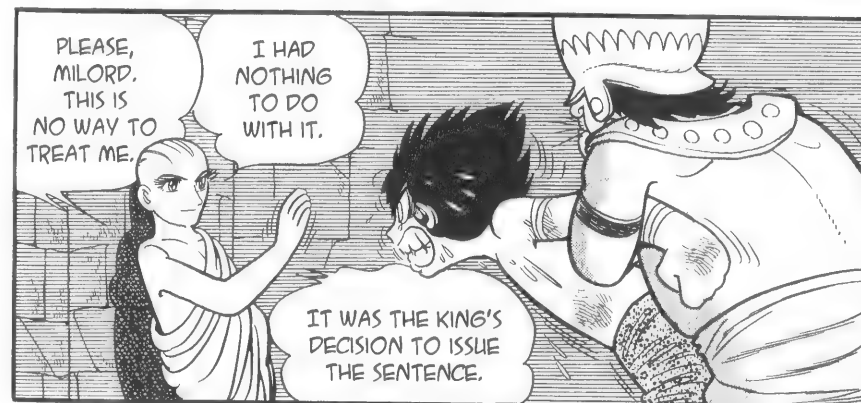
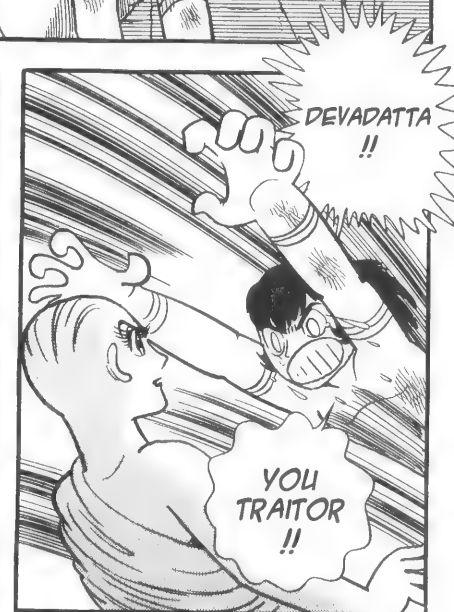
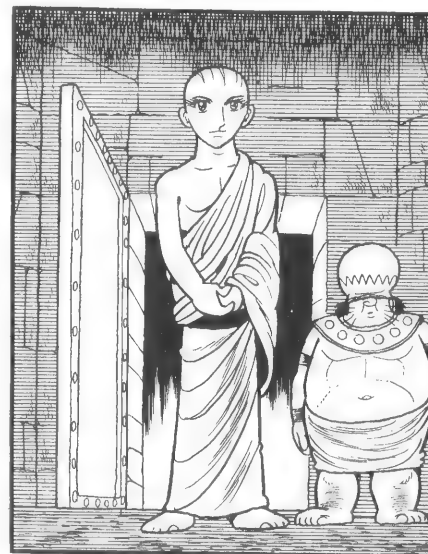
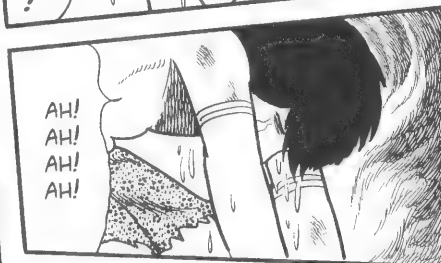


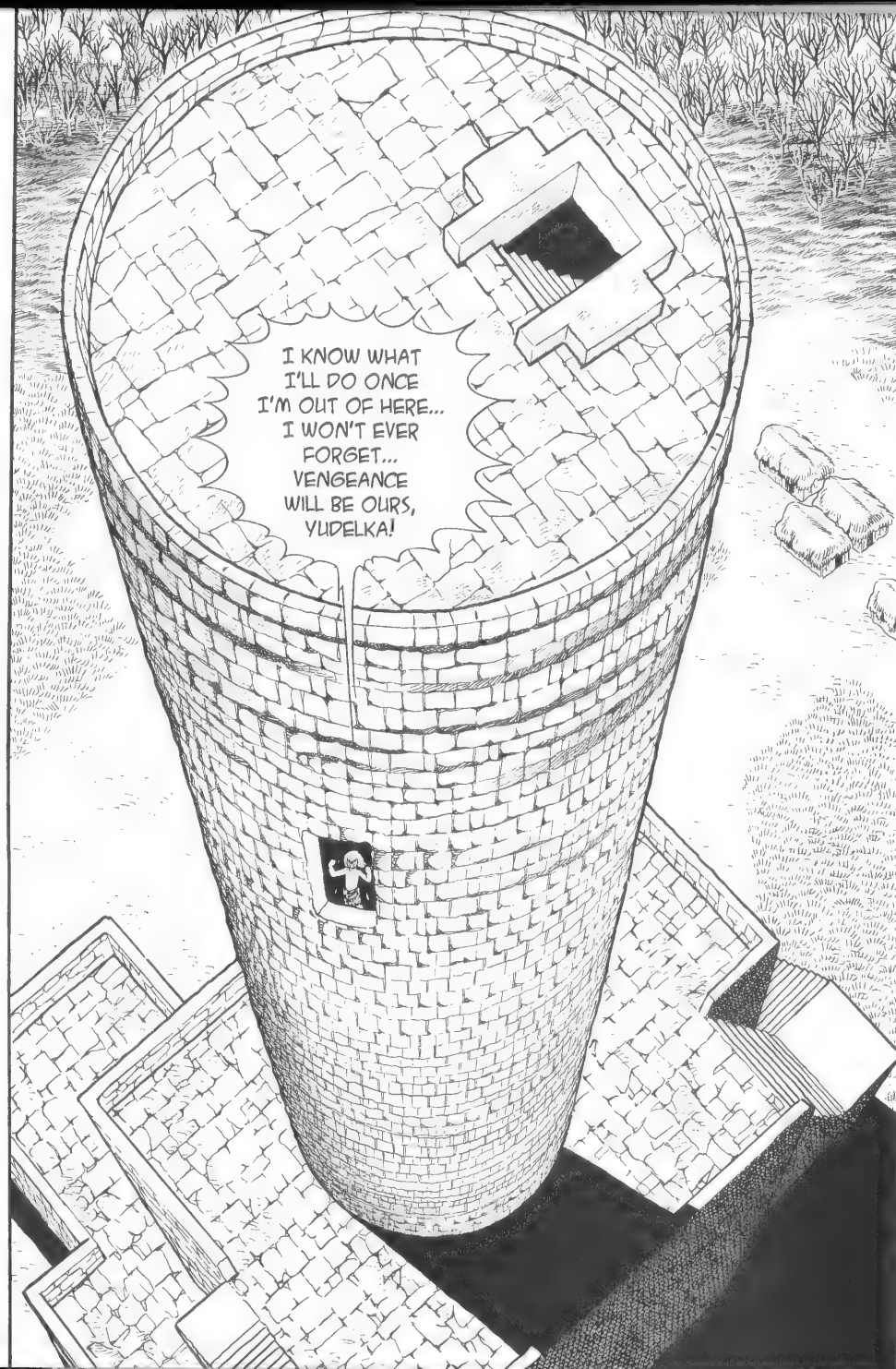
D...
DEATH
?

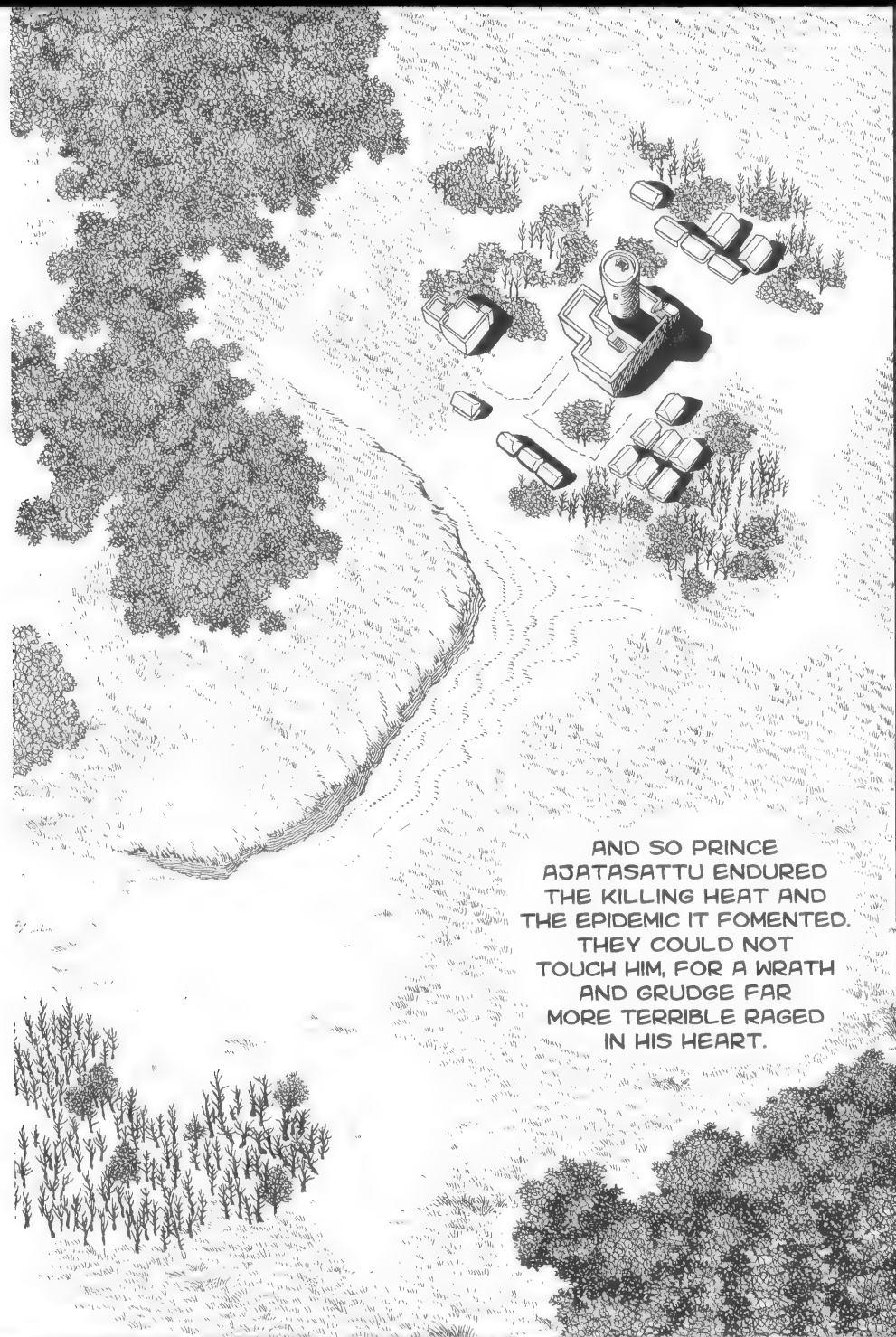
YUDELKA?! DEAD?
H-HOW CAN THAT BE?!









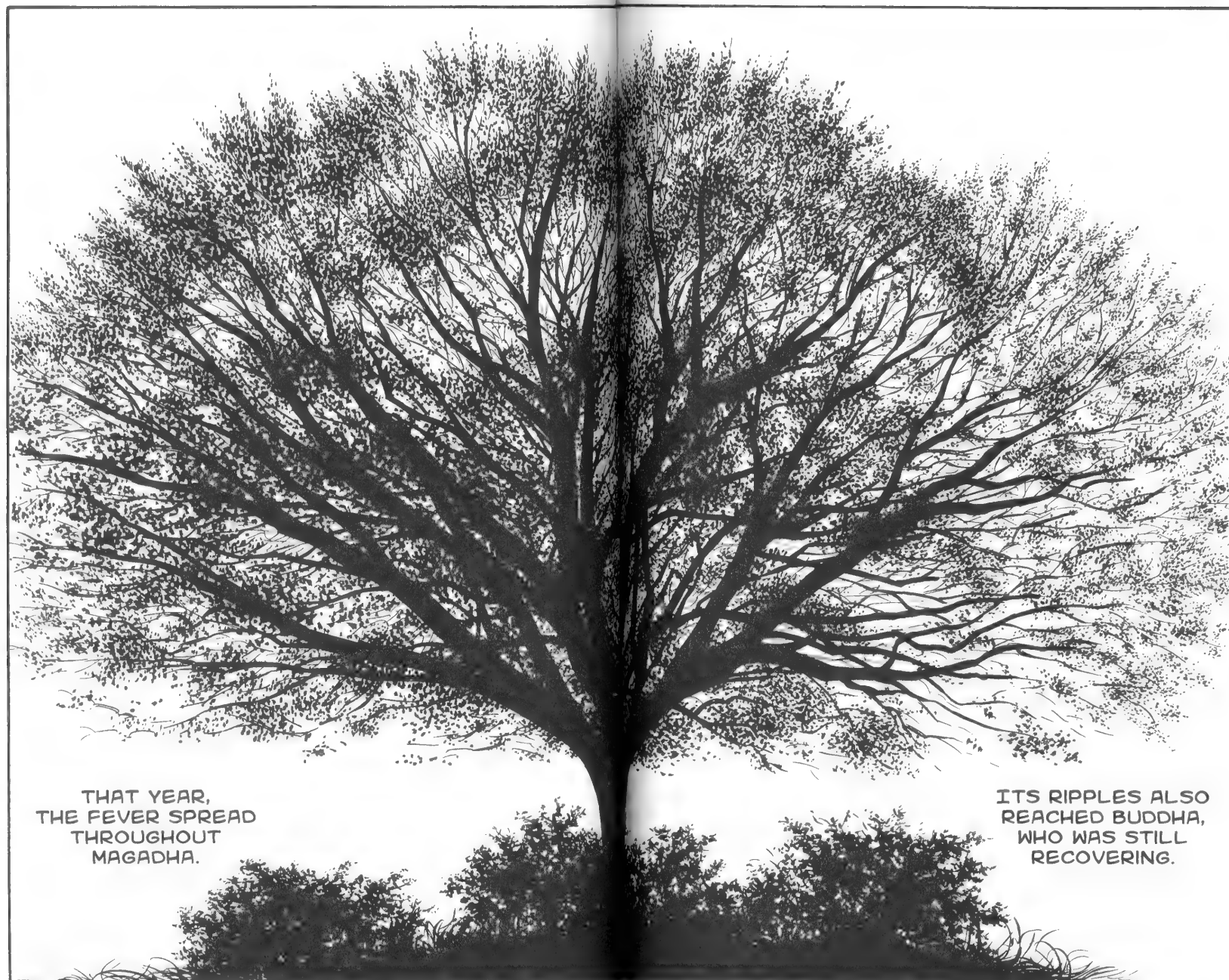


AND SO PRINCE
AJATASATTU ENDURED
THE KILLING HEAT AND
THE EPIDEMIC IT FOMENTED.
THEY COULD NOT
TOUCH HIM, FOR A WRATH
AND GRUDGE FAR
MORE TERRIBLE RAGED
IN HIS HEART.

PART SIX

CHAPTER ONE

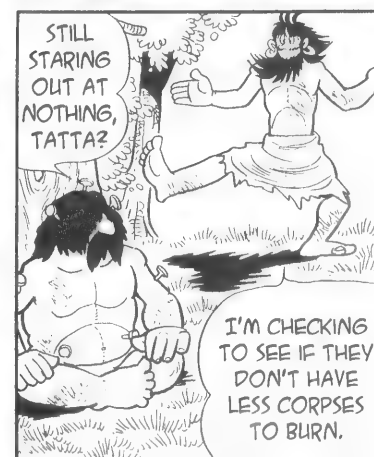
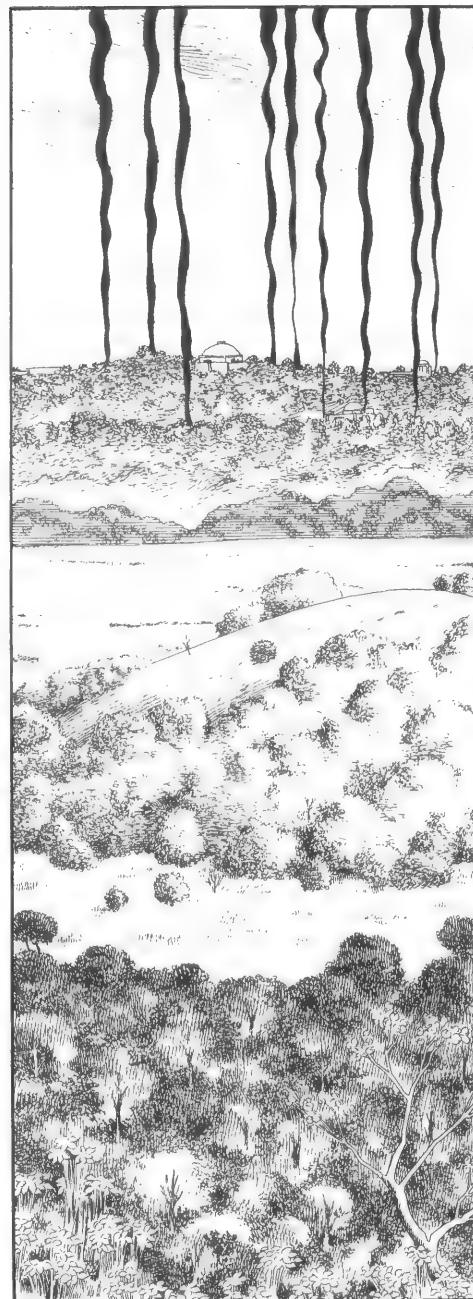
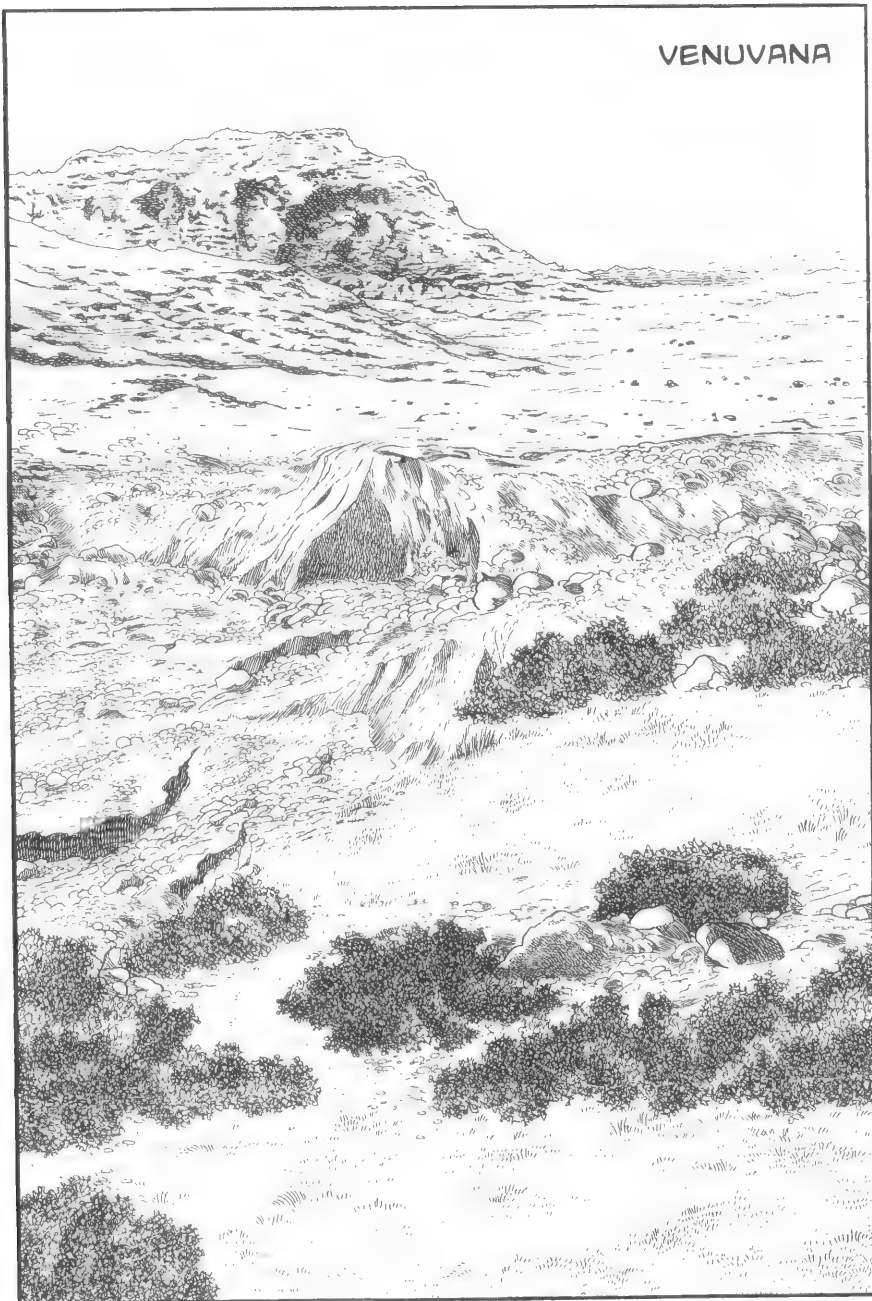
SARIPUTTA AND MOGGALLANA

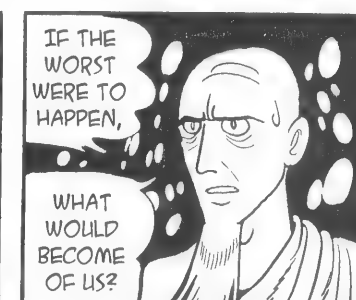
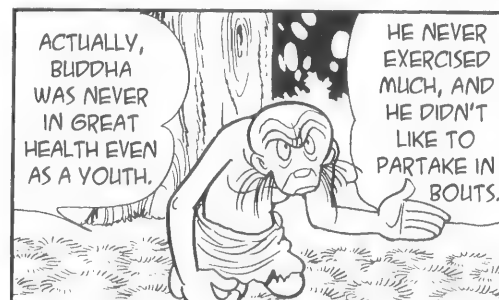
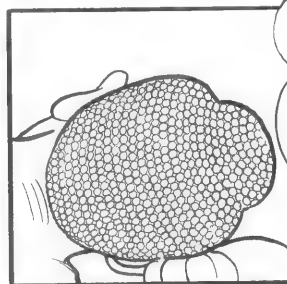
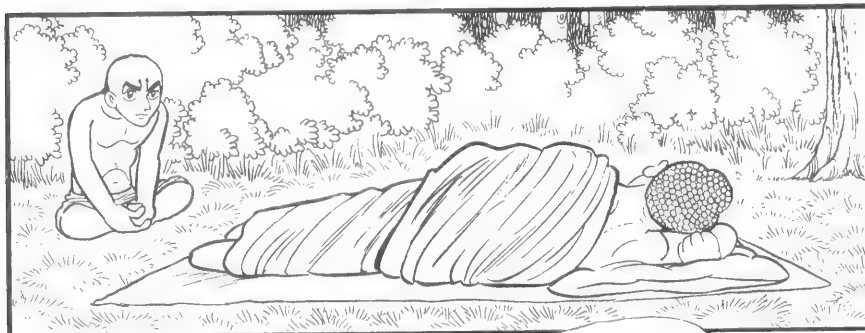
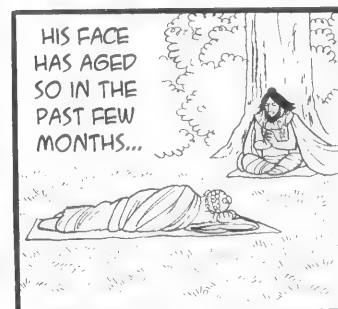


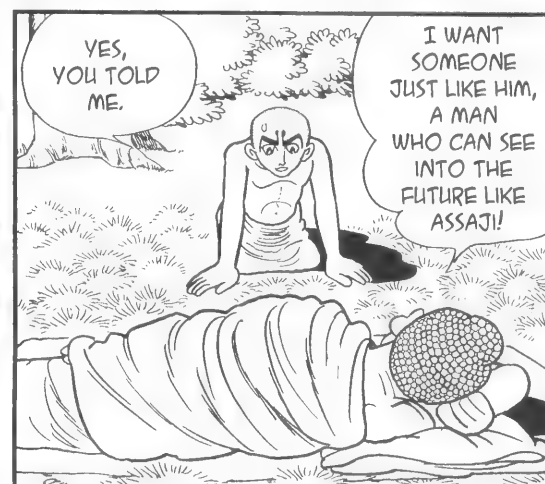
THAT YEAR,
THE FEVER SPREAD
THROUGHOUT
MAGADHA.

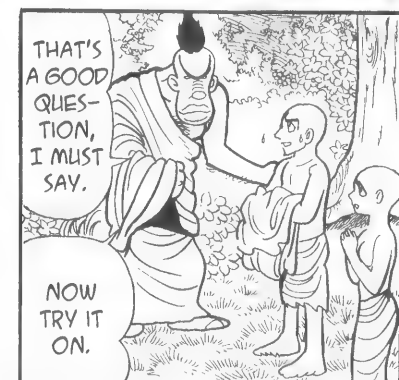
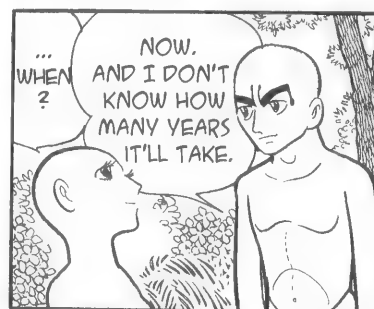
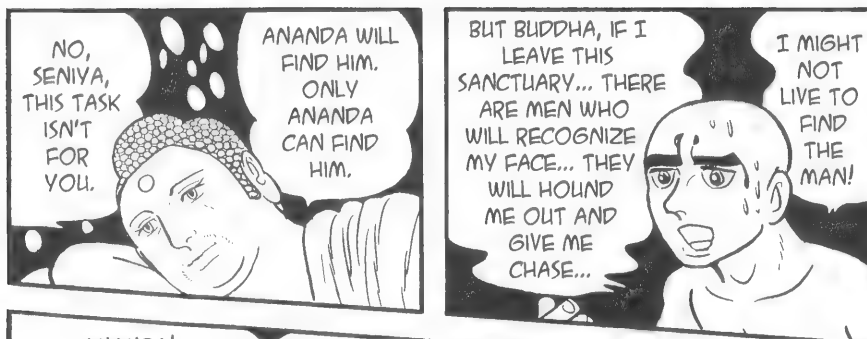
ITS RIPPLES ALSO
REACHED BUDDHA,
WHO WAS STILL
RECOVERING.

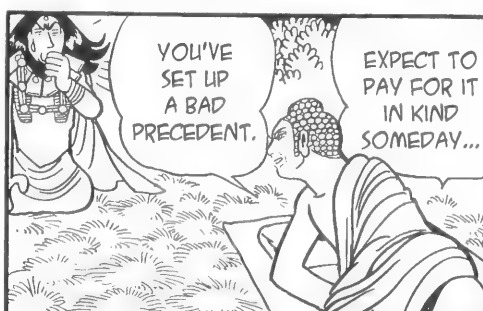
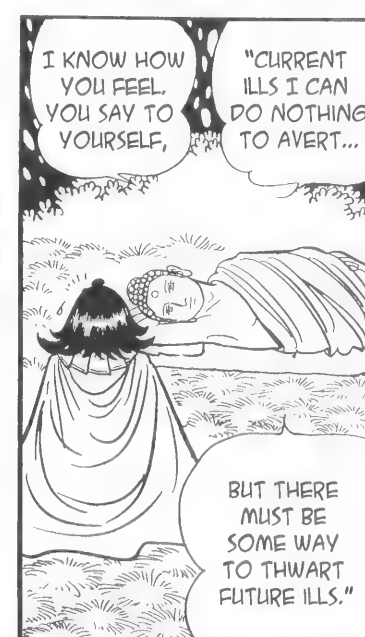
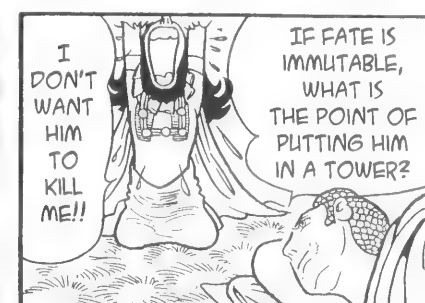
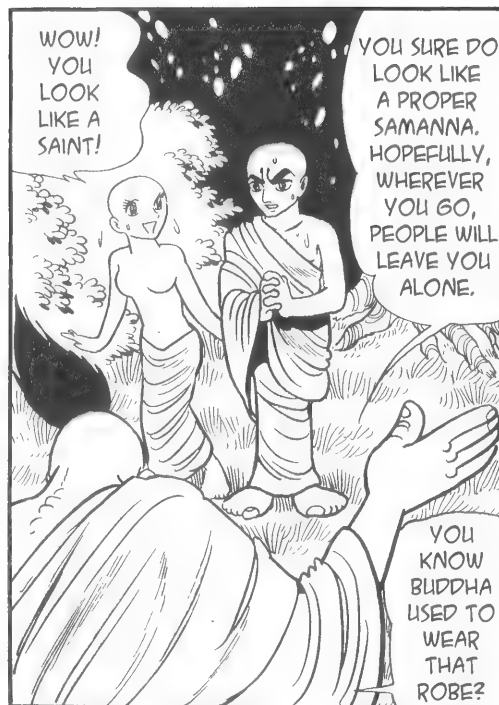
VENUVANA





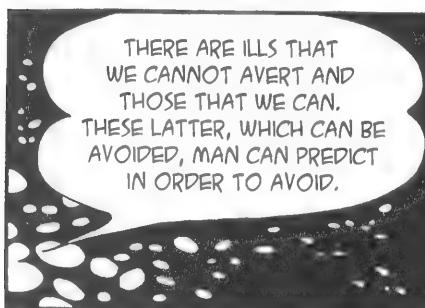




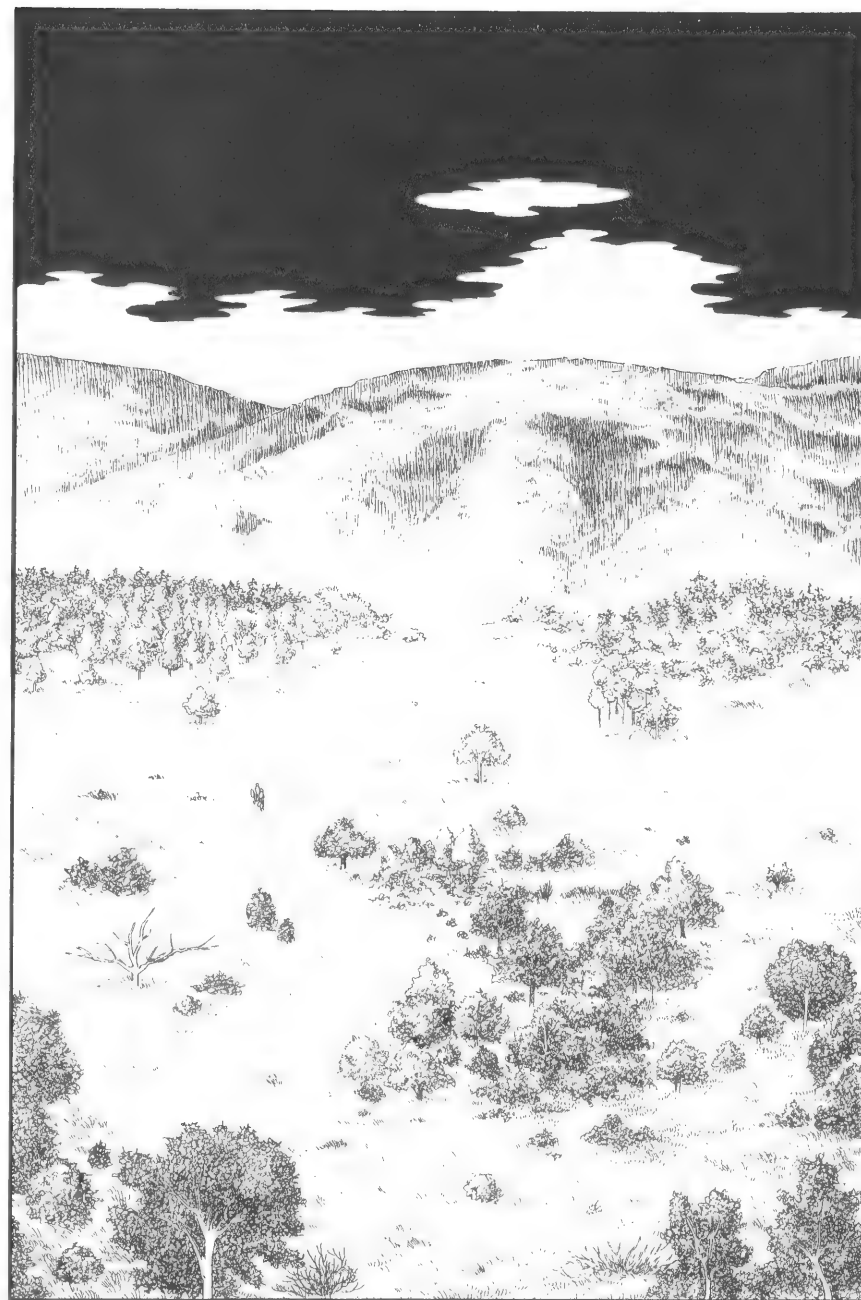


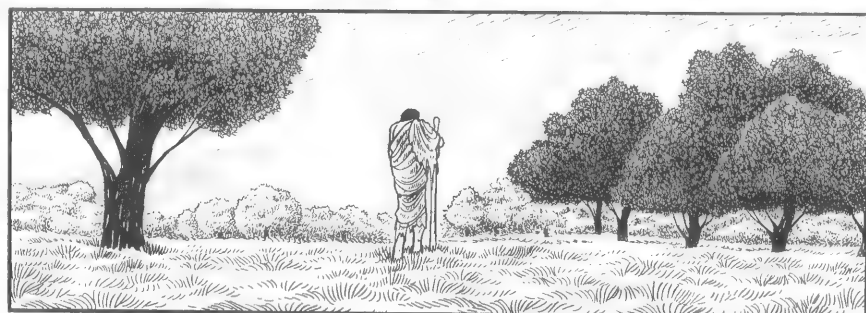
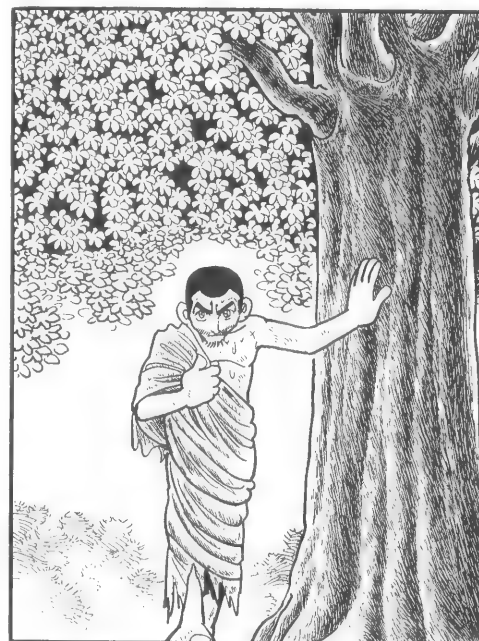
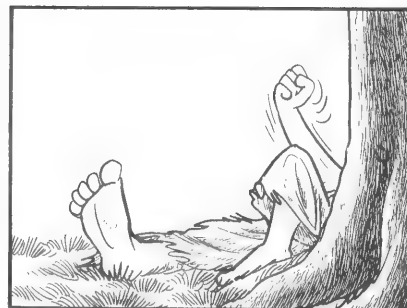
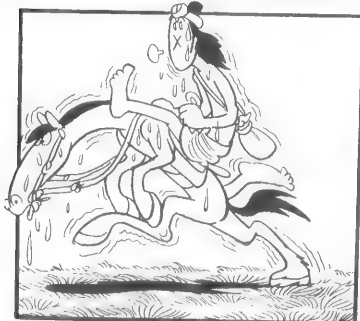
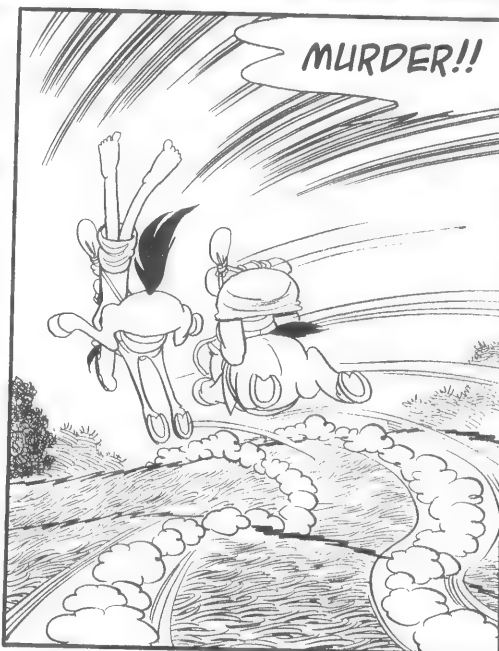
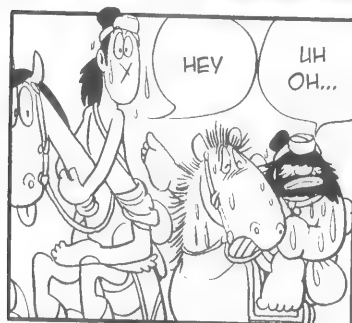
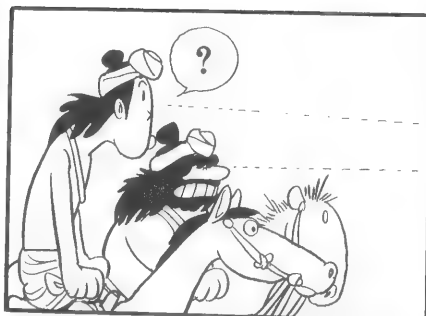


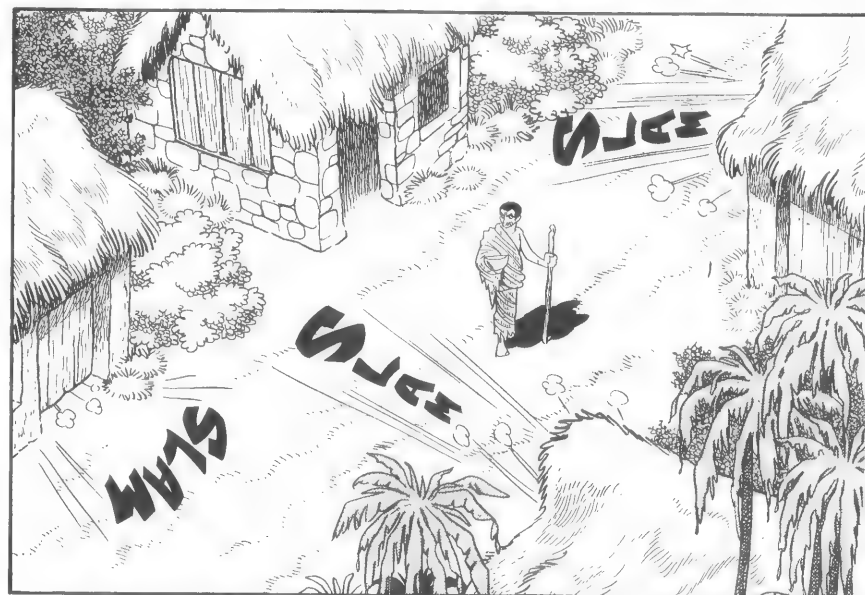
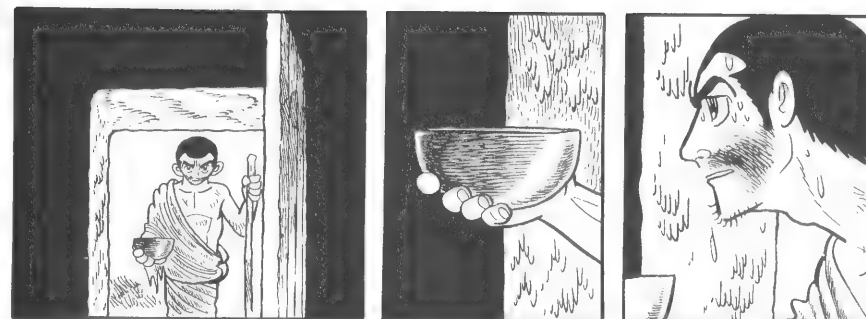
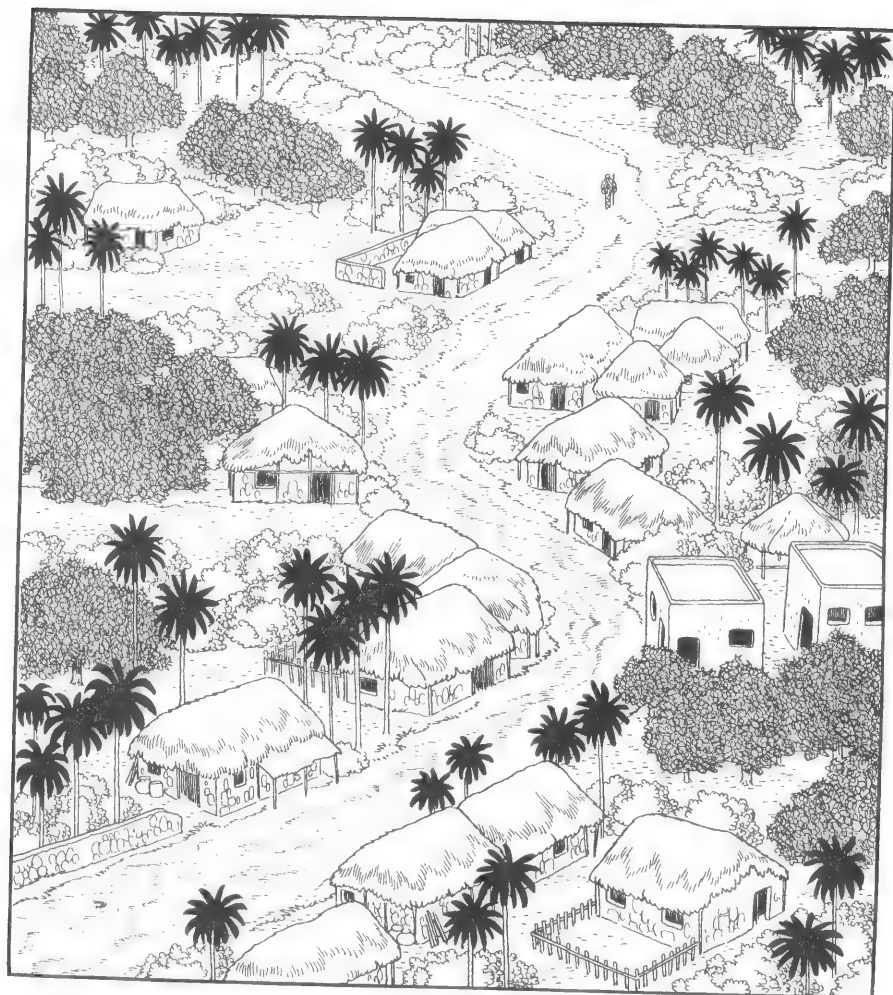
INDEED, FATE IS NOT
FIXED IN ADVANCE.
IT EVER GOES ON
SHIFTING...

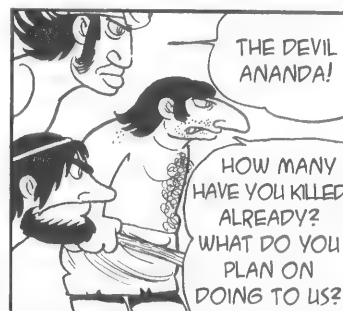
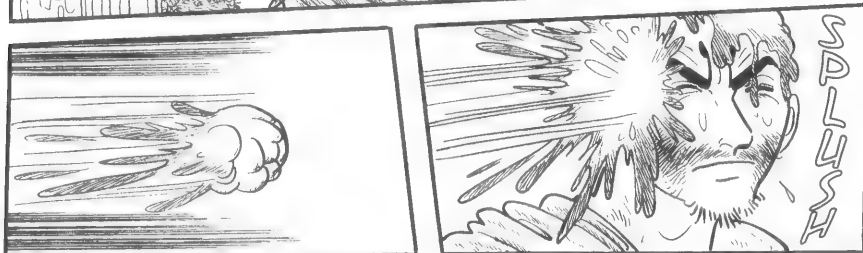


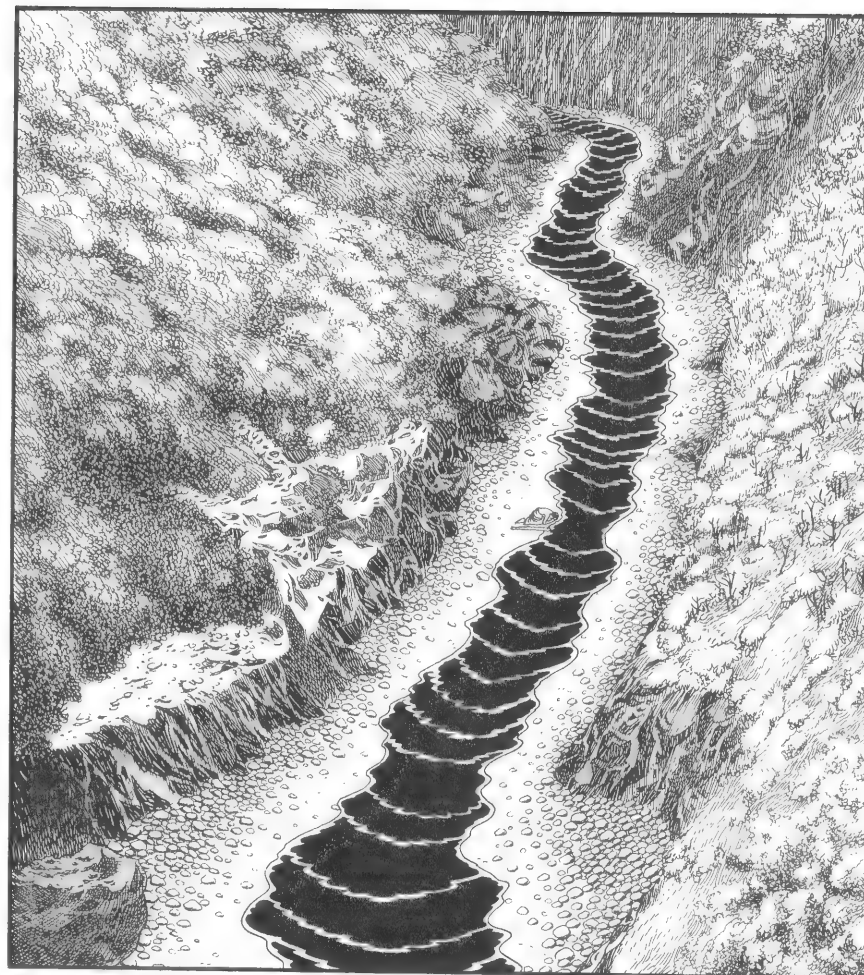
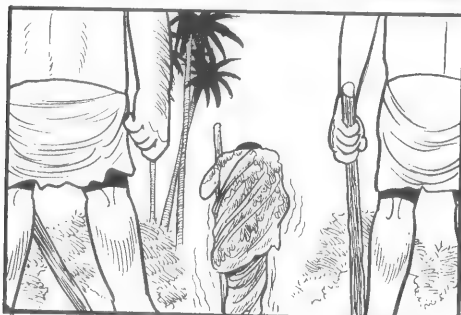
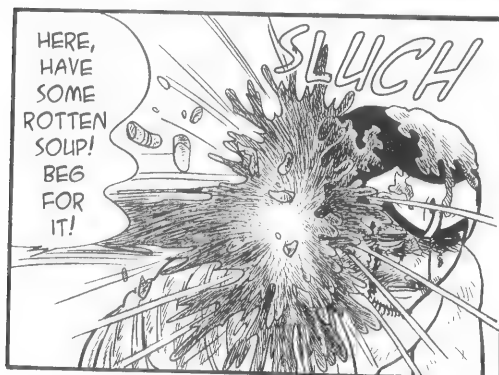
HE WHO
CAN SEE
THINGS
COMING.
THE WORLD
IN OUR AGE
NEEDS
HIM.

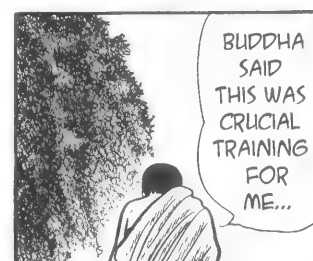
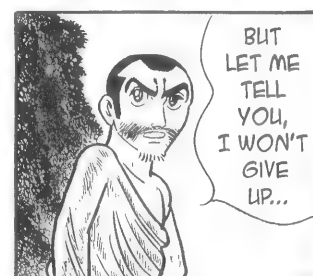
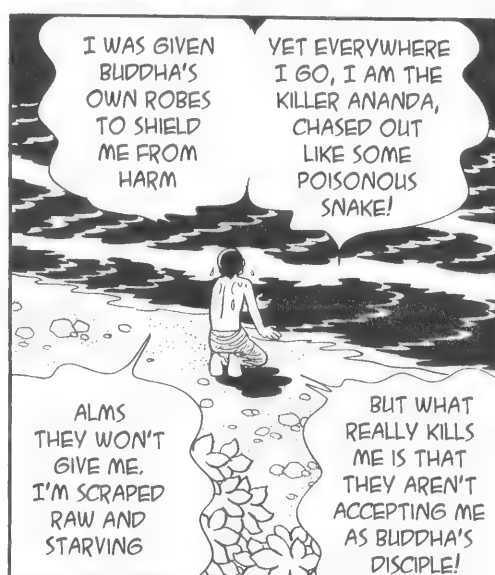
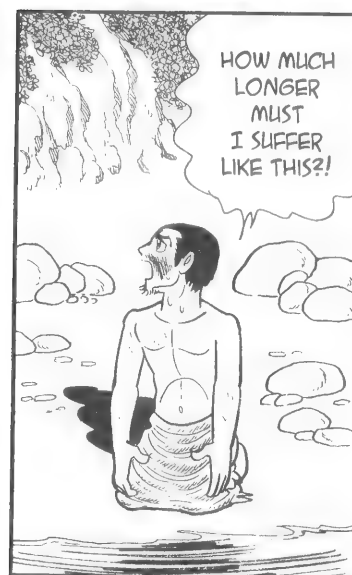


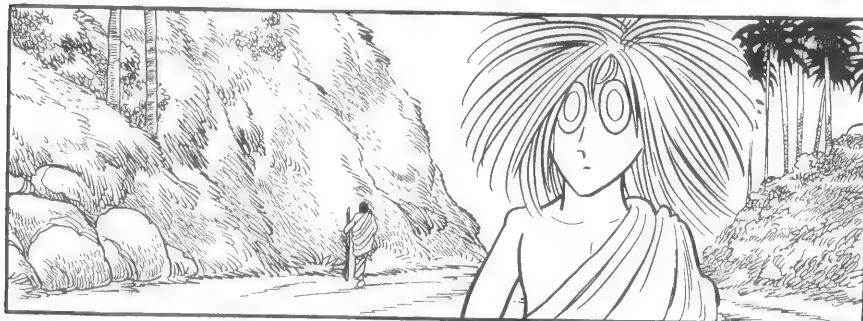
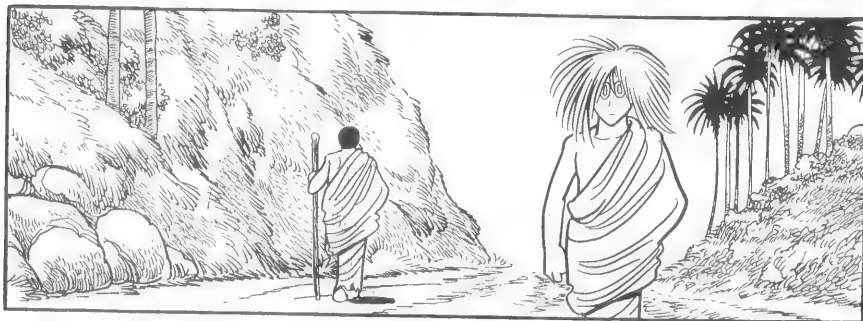
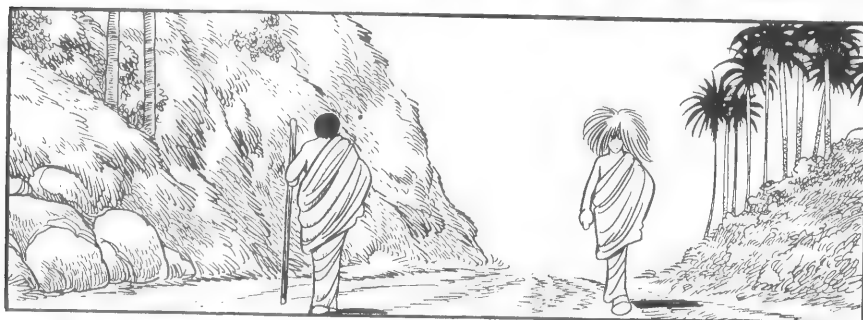
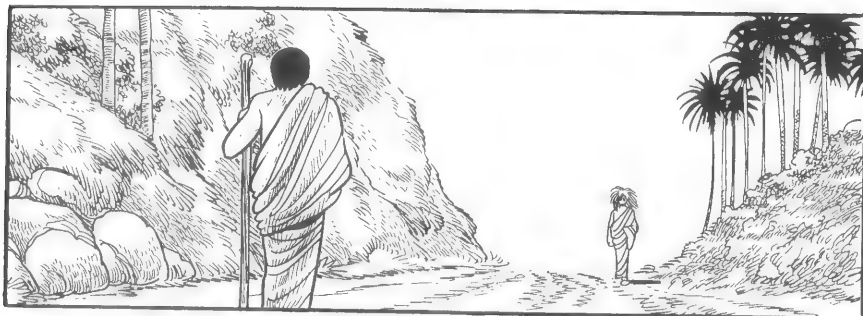








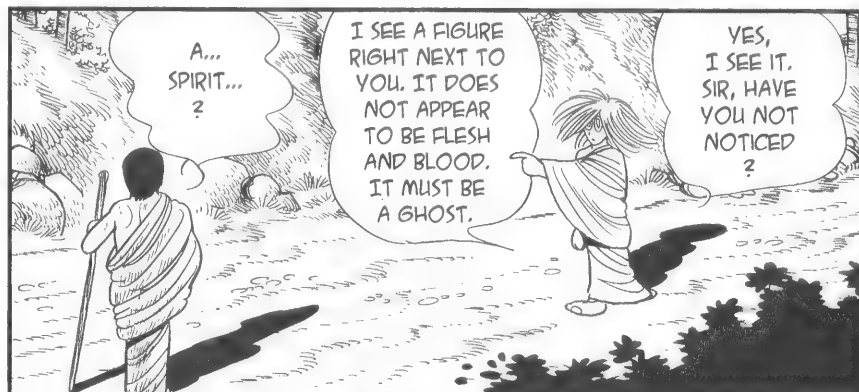




EXCUSE
ME,
SIR!



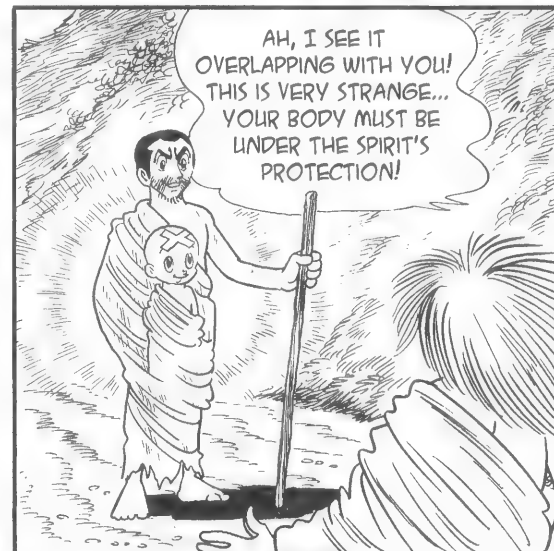
WHY
DO YOU GO
WITH A SPIRIT
?



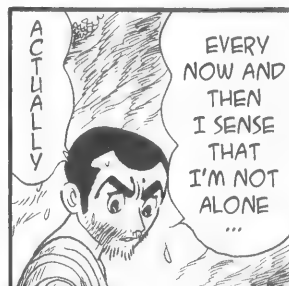
A...
SPIRIT...
?

I SEE A FIGURE
RIGHT NEXT TO
YOU. IT DOES
NOT APPEAR
TO BE FLESH
AND BLOOD.
IT MUST BE
A GHOST.

YES,
I SEE IT.
SIR, HAVE
YOU NOT
NOTICED
?



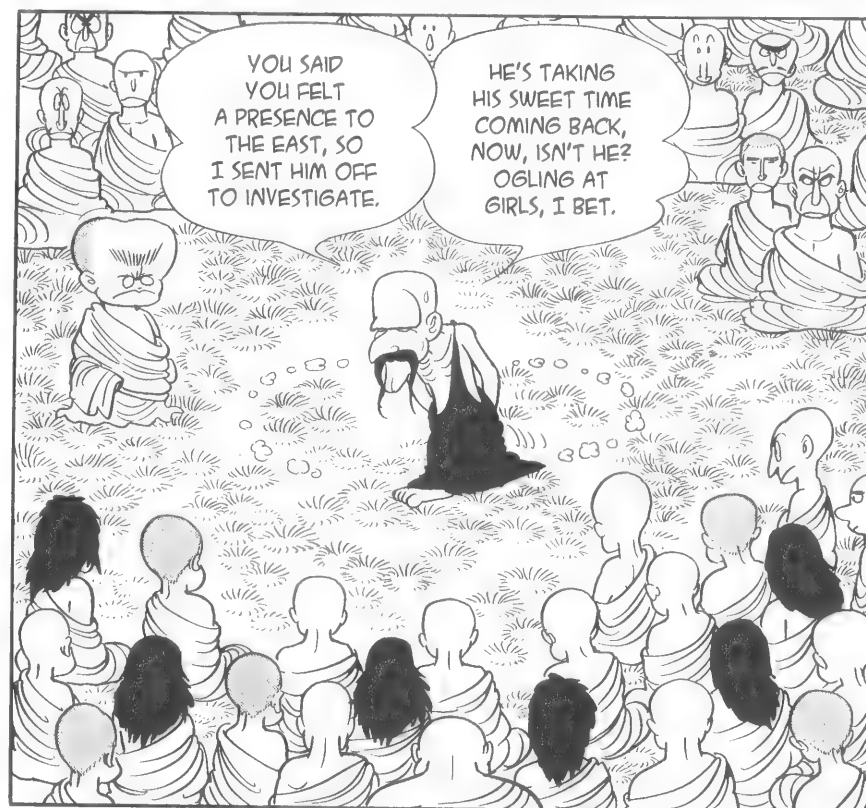
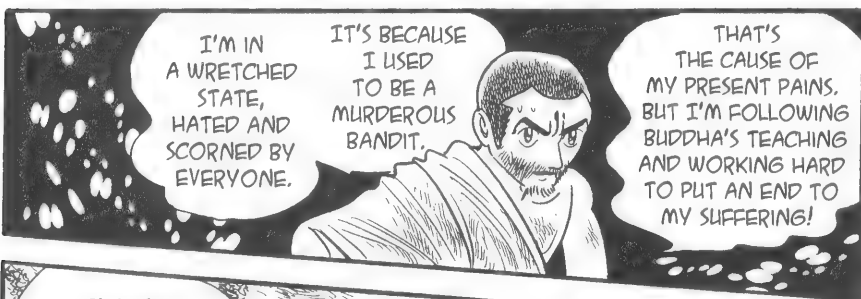
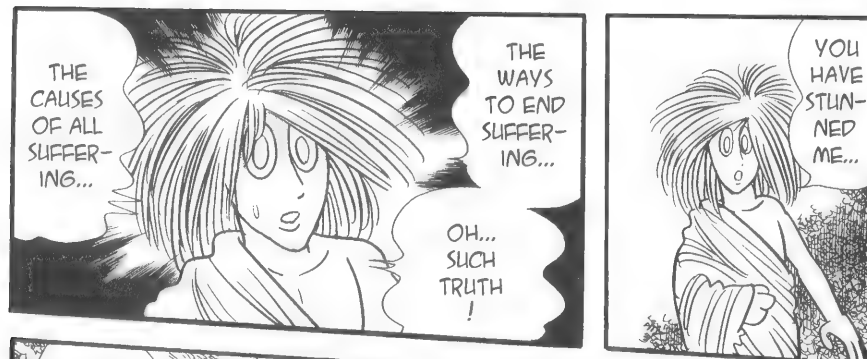
AH, I SEE IT
OVERLAPPING WITH YOU!
THIS IS VERY STRANGE...
YOUR BODY MUST BE
UNDER THE SPIRIT'S
PROTECTION!

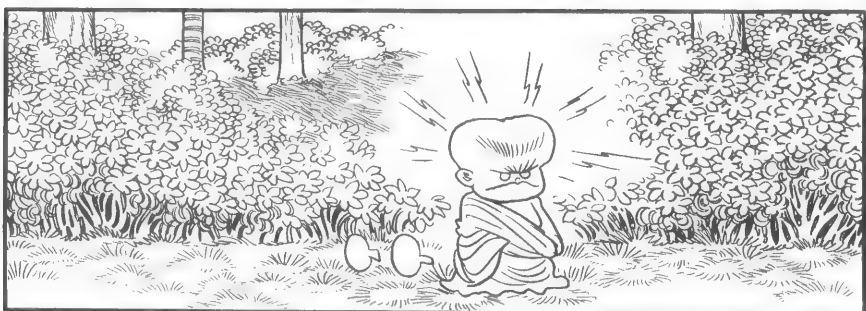
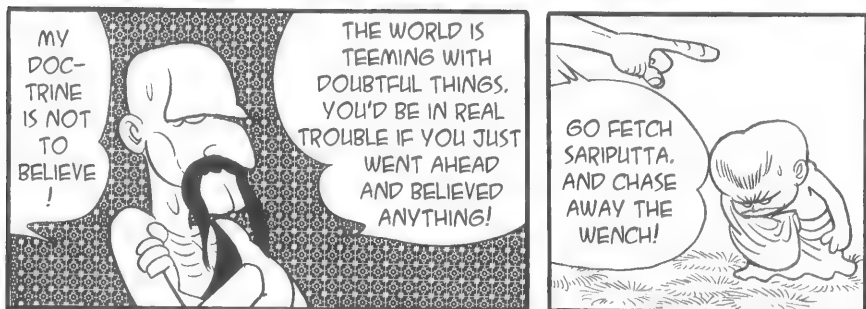
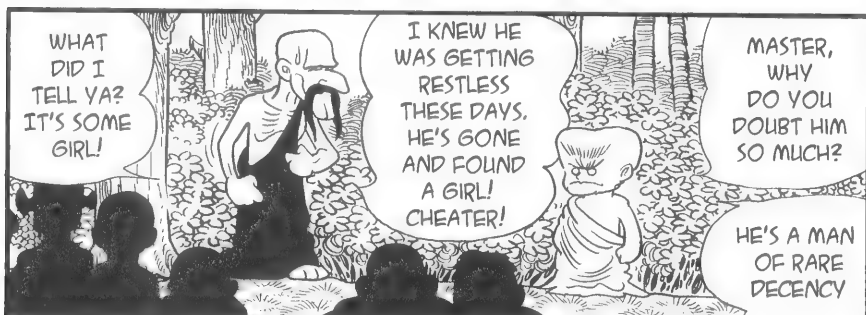


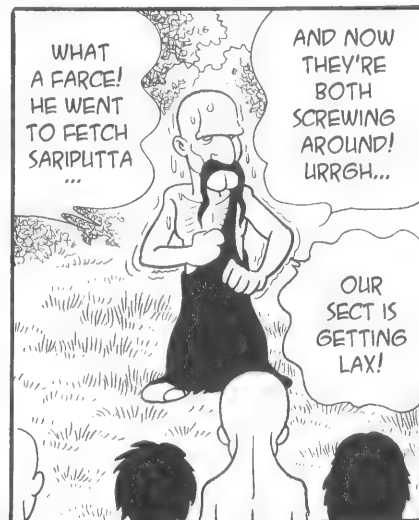
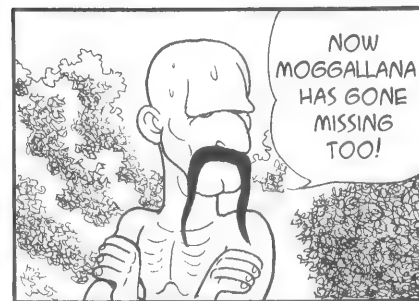
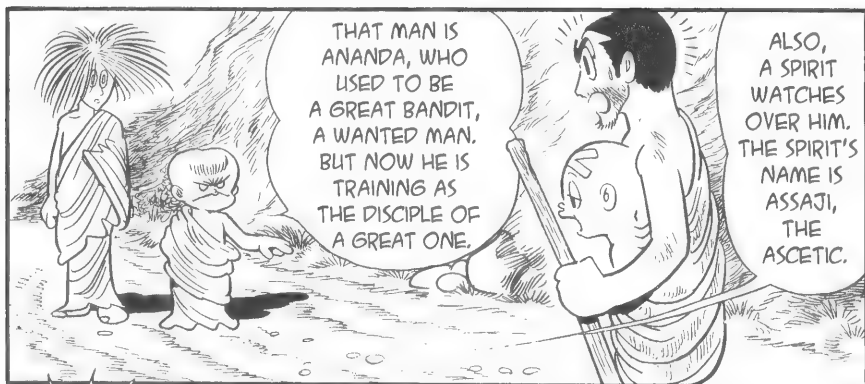
ACTUALLY

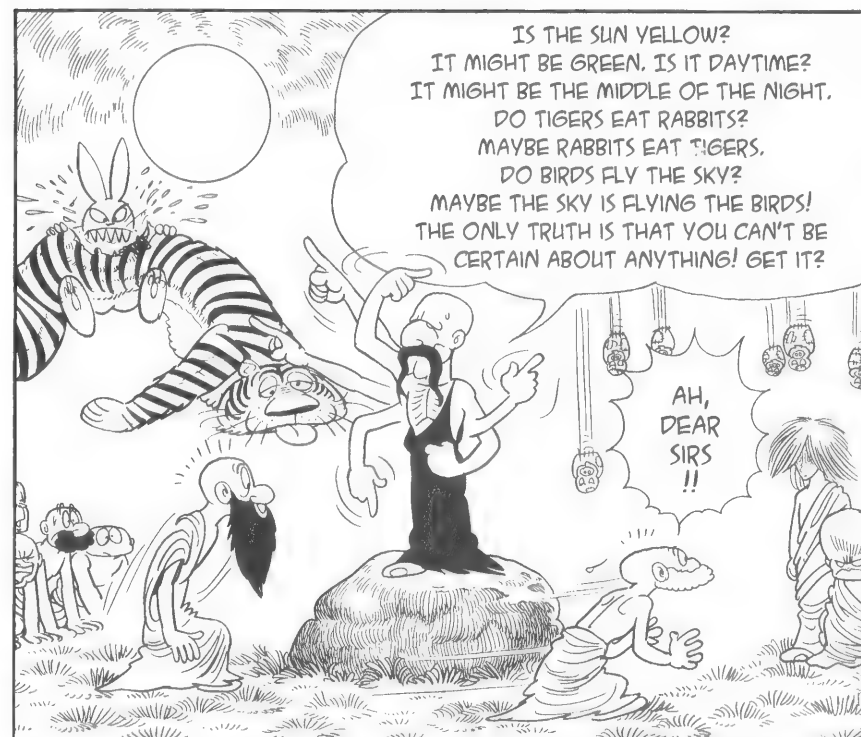
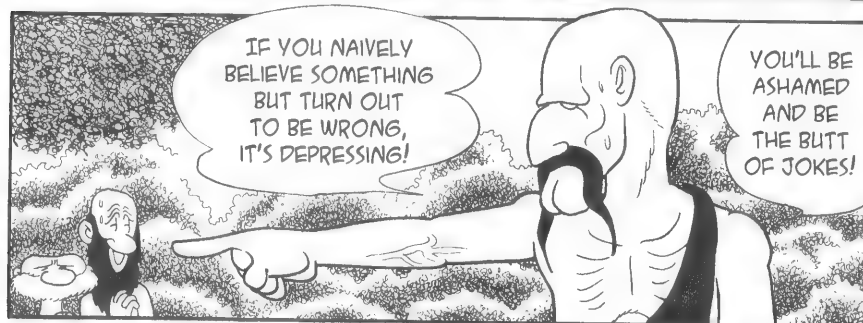
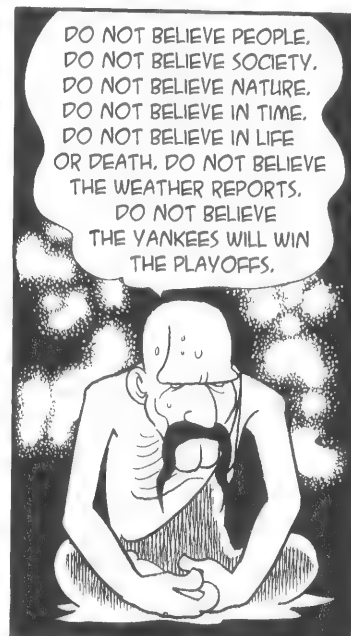
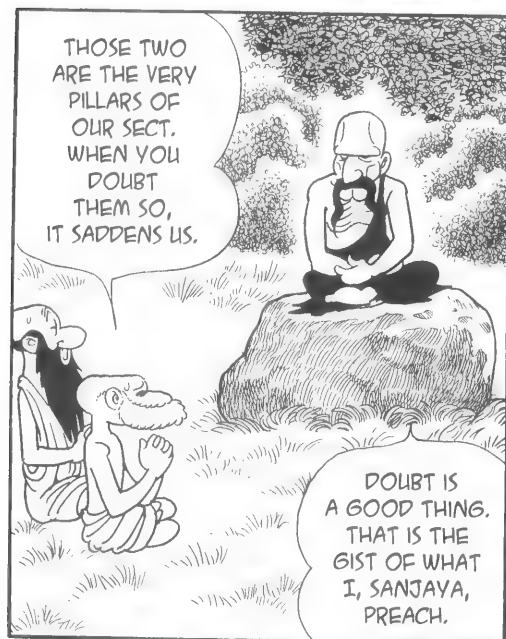
EVERY
NOW AND
THEN
I SENSE
THAT
I'M NOT
ALONE
...

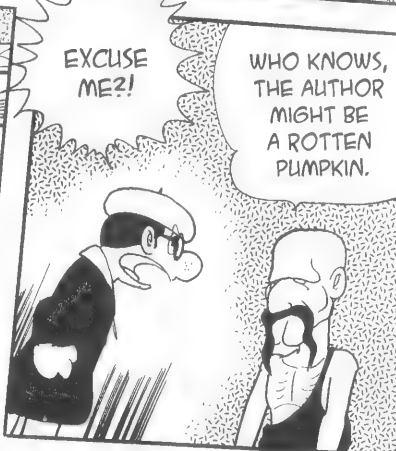
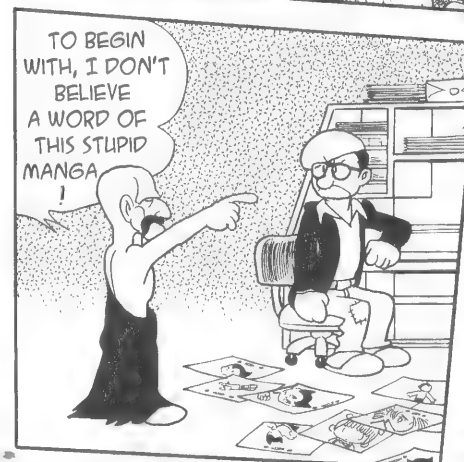
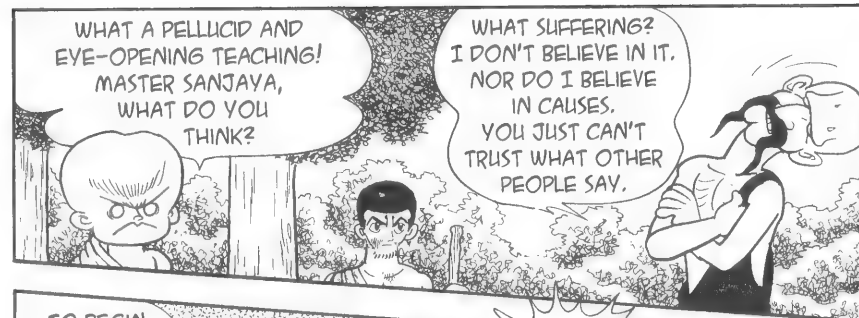
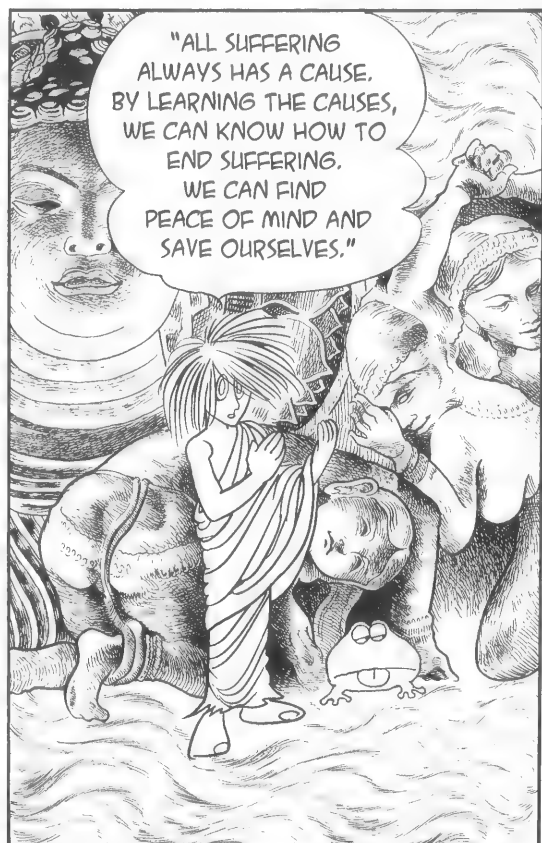
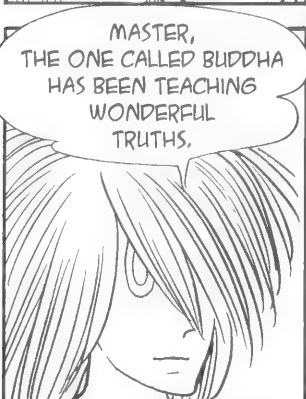
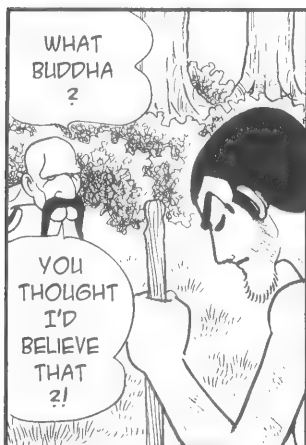
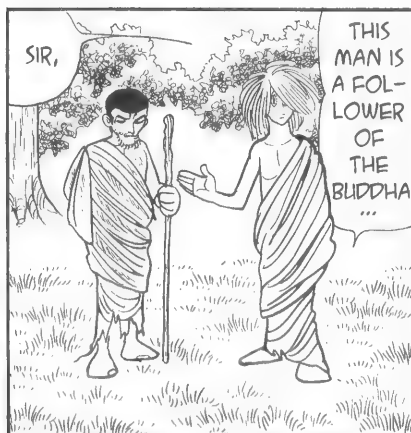


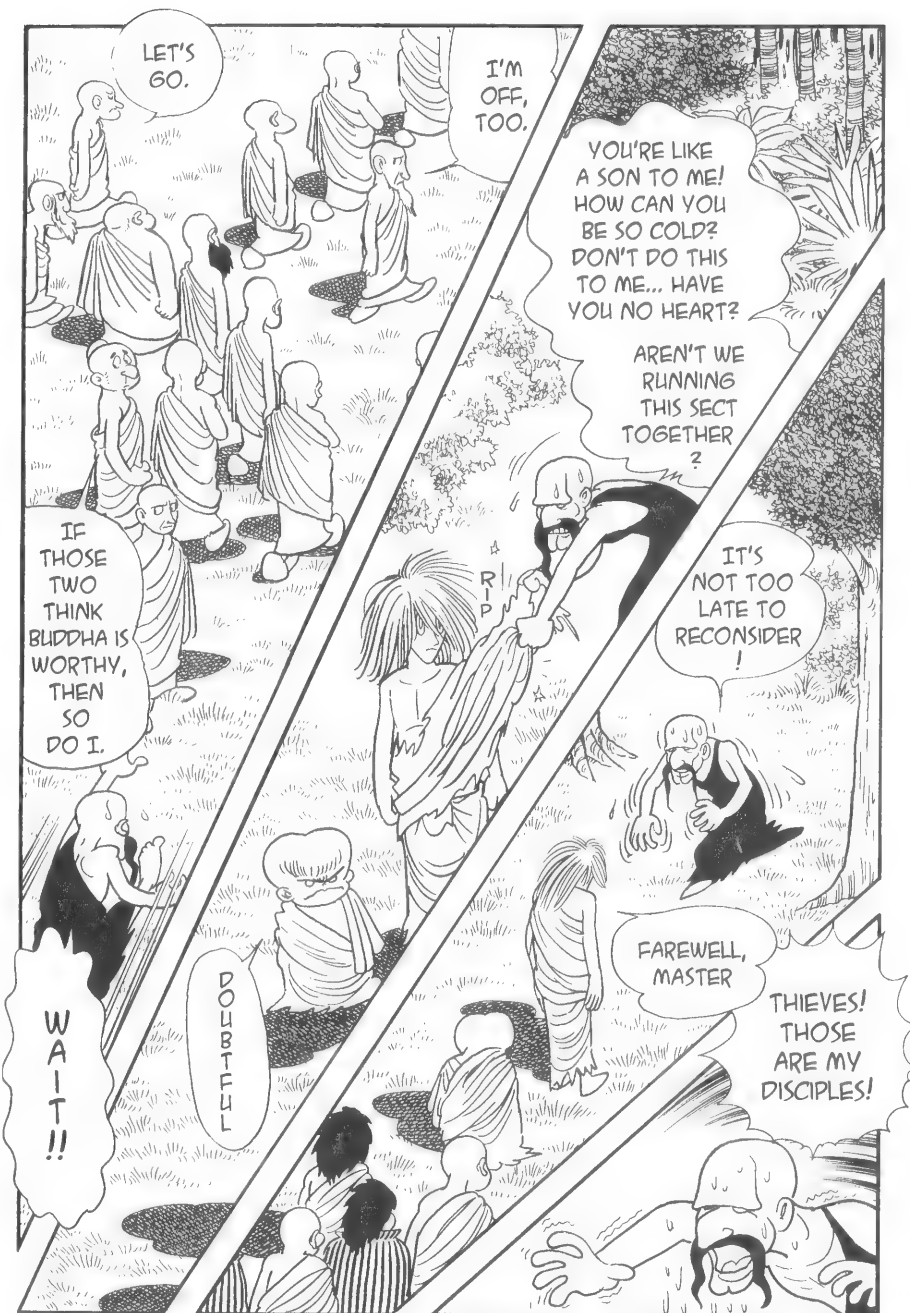


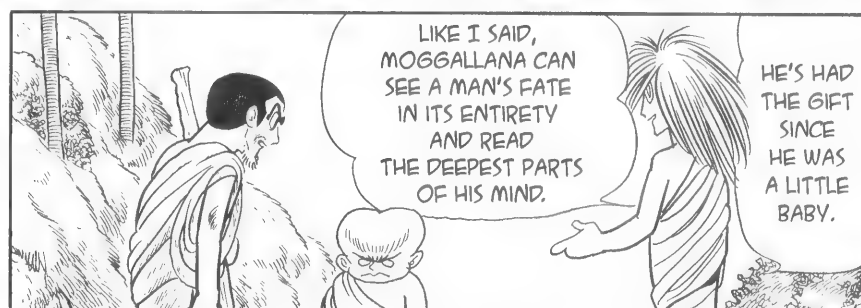
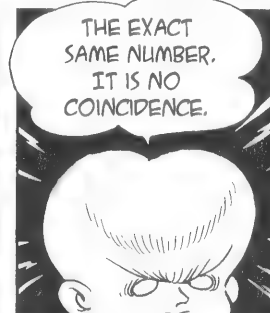
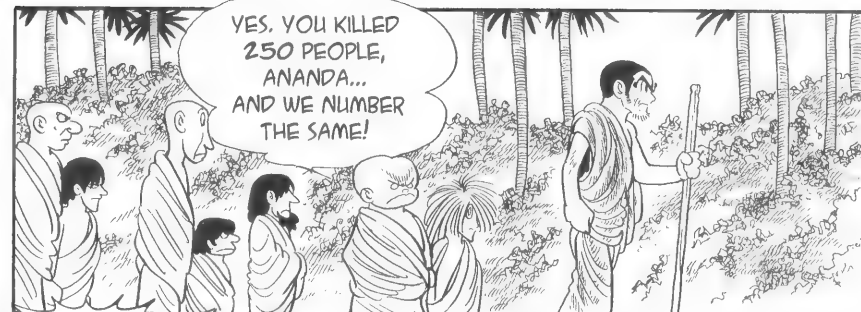
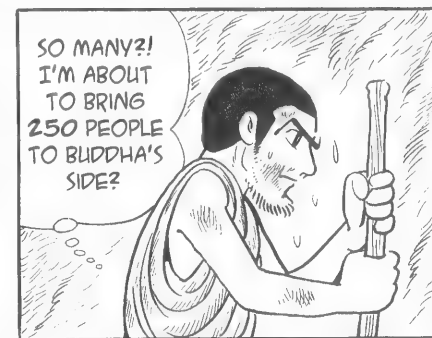
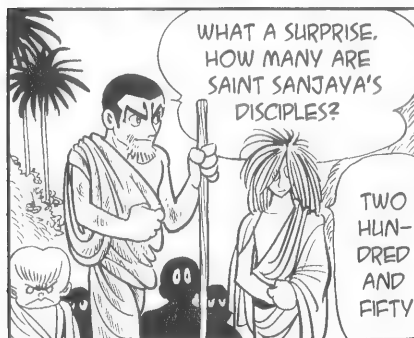
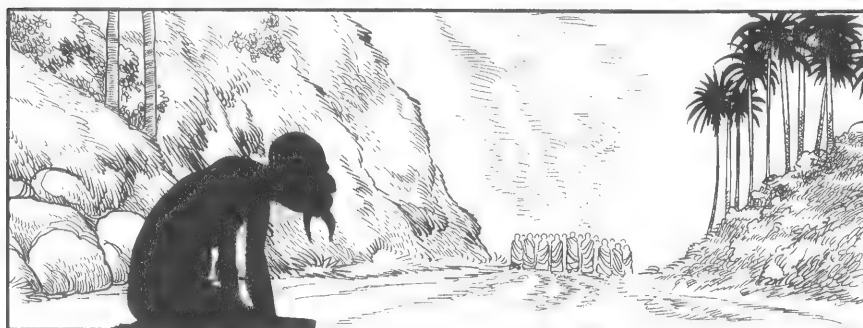
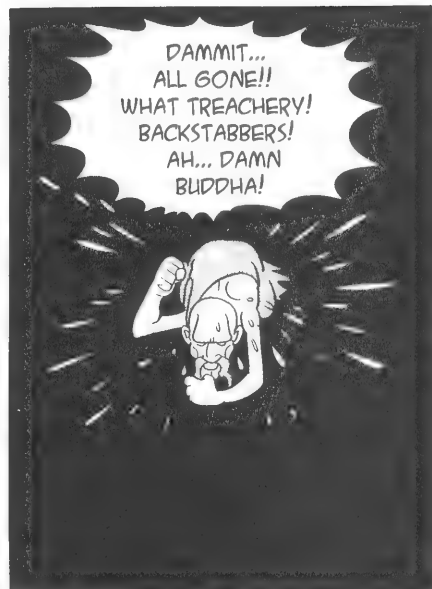






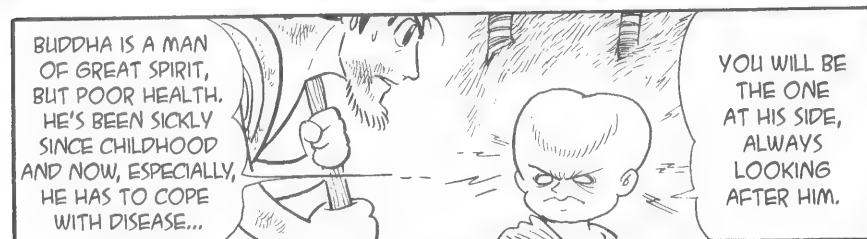








AIDE?!



BUDDHA IS A MAN OF GREAT SPIRIT, BUT POOR HEALTH. HE'S BEEN SICKLY SINCE CHILDHOOD AND NOW, ESPECIALLY, HE HAS TO COPE WITH DISEASE...

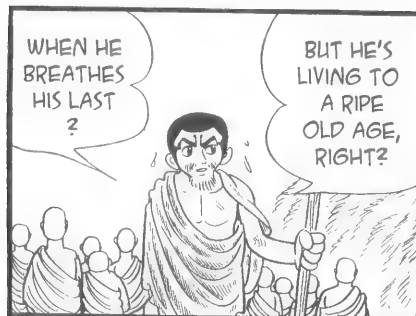
YOU WILL BE THE ONE AT HIS SIDE, ALWAYS LOOKING AFTER HIM.



WHEREVER HE GOES, HE'LL RELY ON YOUR SUPPORT.

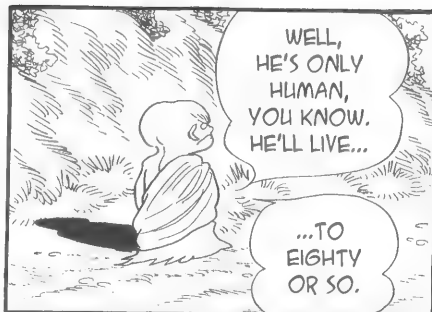
MY SUPPORT? HE'D PUT FAITH IN AN EX-CON LIKE ME?

YES, YOU'LL BE RIGHT BY HIS SIDE WHEN HE BREATHES HIS LAST.



WHEN HE
BREATHES
HIS LAST
?

BUT HE'S
LIVING TO
A RIPE
OLD AGE,
RIGHT?



WELL,
HE'S ONLY
HUMAN,
YOU KNOW.
HE'LL LIVE...

...TO
EIGHTY
OR SO.



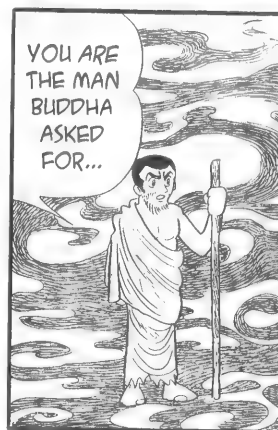
2,000
YEARS?!
AND
AFTER
THAT?

I CAN'T SEE
QUITE
THAT FAR...

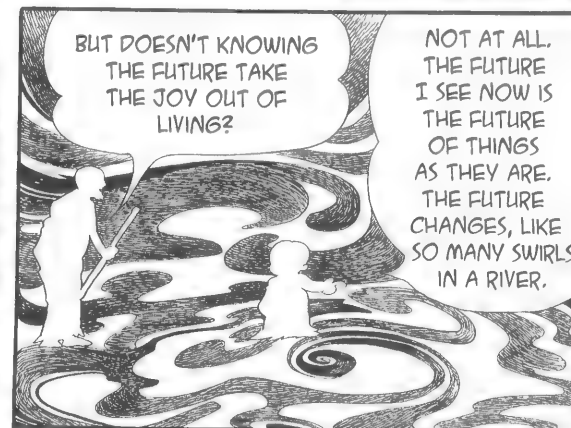
MY POWER
HAS ITS
LIMITS.



MAYBE
THE WORLD WILL END.
MANKIND COULD
DIE OUT.
CALL IT THE
"LATTER DAYS."

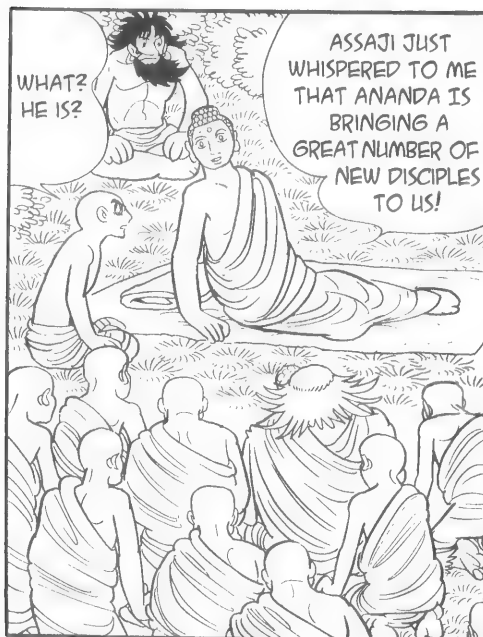


YOU ARE
THE MAN
BUDDHA
ASKED
FOR...

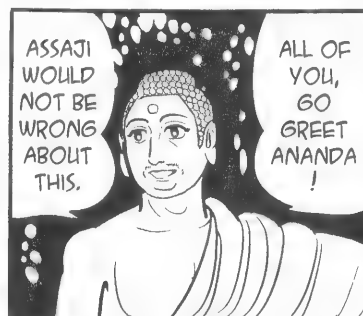
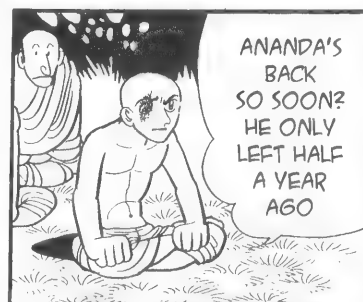


BUT DOESN'T KNOWING
THE FUTURE TAKE
THE JOY OUT OF
LIVING?

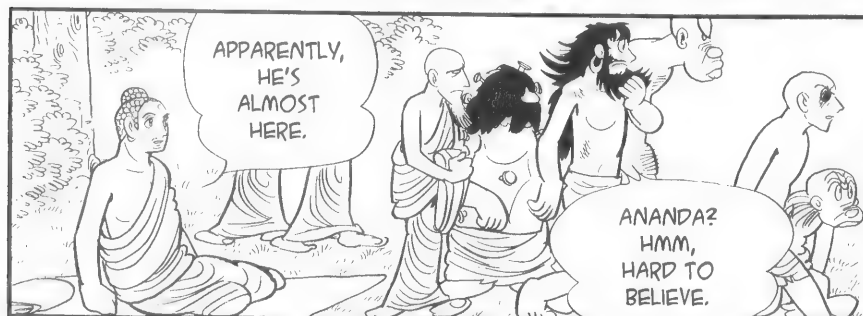
NOT AT ALL.
THE FUTURE
I SEE NOW IS
THE FUTURE
OF THINGS
AS THEY ARE.
THE FUTURE
CHANGES, LIKE
SO MANY SWIRLS
IN A RIVER.



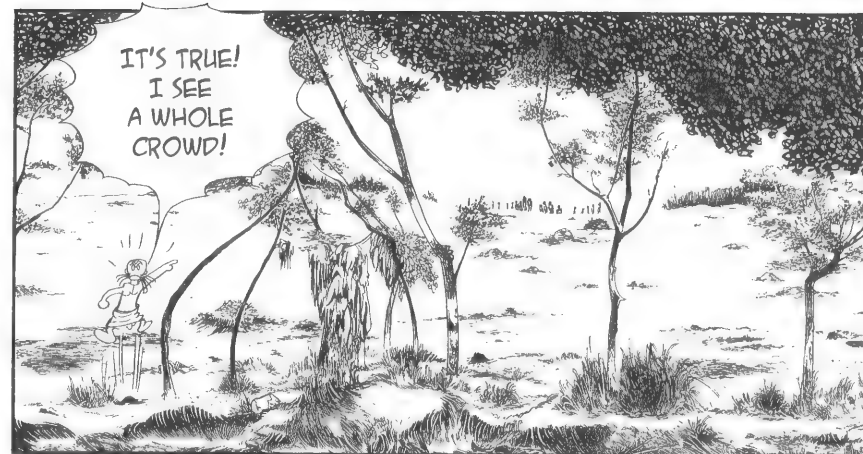
ASSAJI JUST WHISPERED TO ME THAT ANANDA IS BRINGING A GREAT NUMBER OF NEW DISCIPLES TO US!



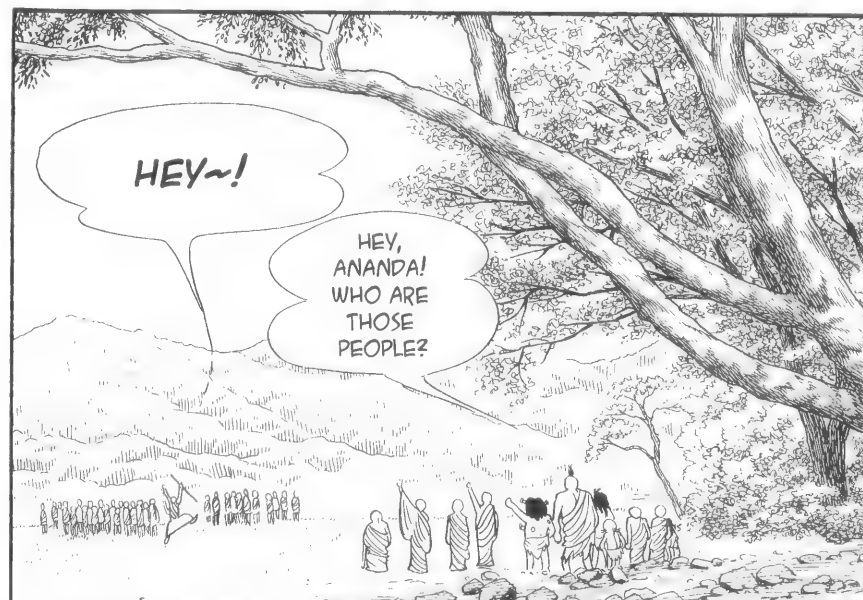
ALL OF YOU, GO GREET ANANDA!



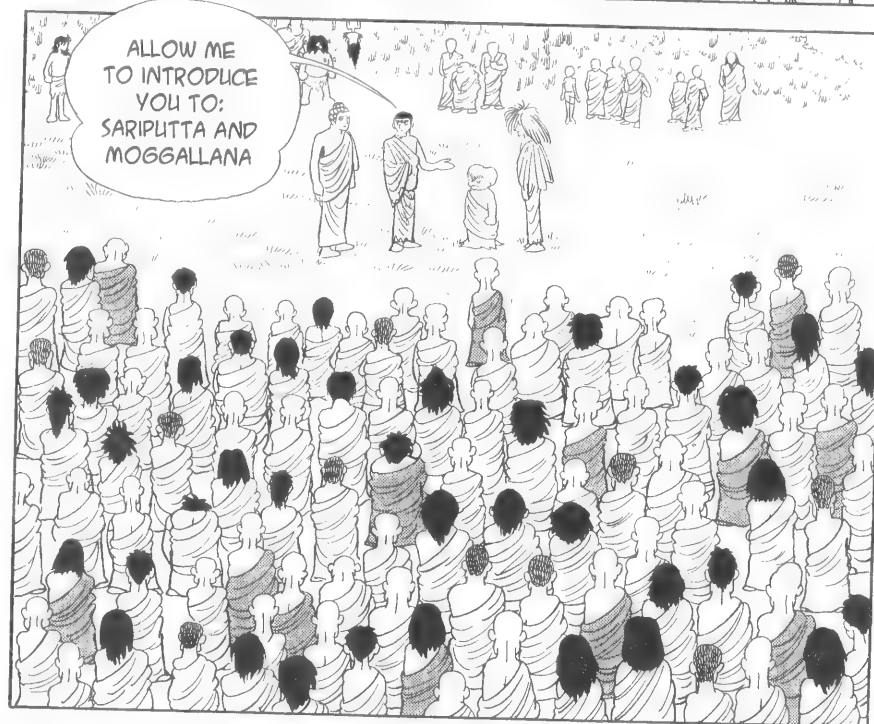
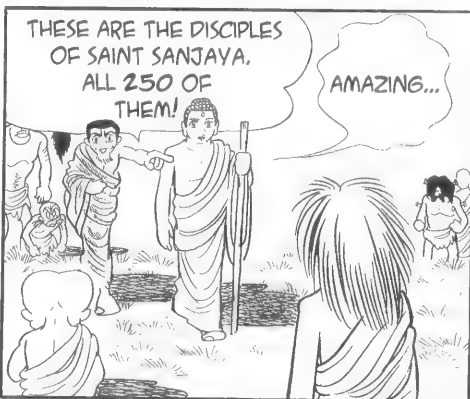
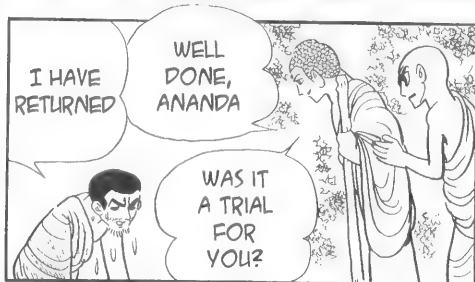
ANANDA? HMM, HARD TO BELIEVE.

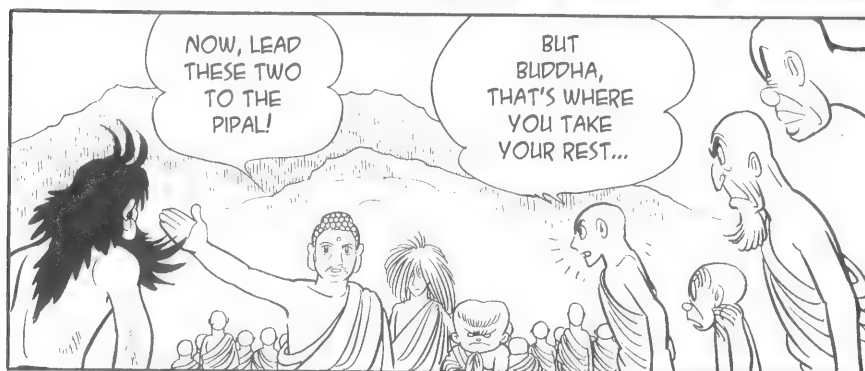
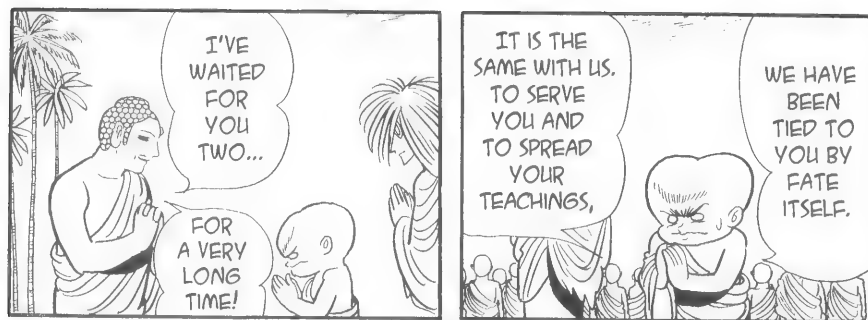


AND THAT'S ANANDA AT THEIR HEAD. WOW!



HEY, ANANDA! WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE?





CHAPTER TWO

A CROWD OF CRITICS



WHAT THE
HECK IS
BUDDHA
THINKING?

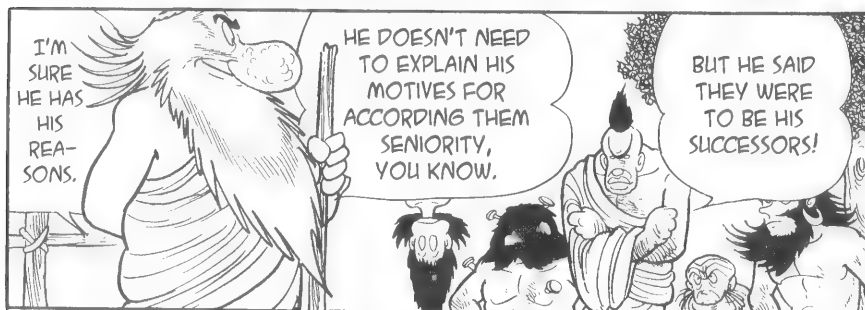
HE'S GIVEN
SEATS OF
HONOR TO
THOSE NEWBIES
OVER SENIOR
DISCIPLES!



IF I MAY
SAY SO
MYSELF, I'M
THE TOP
MONK HERE
IN TERMS
OF RANK.



RELAX



I'M
SURE
HE HAS
HIS
REA-
SONS.

HE DOESN'T NEED
TO EXPLAIN HIS
MOTIVES FOR
ACCORDING THEM
SENIORITY,
YOU KNOW.

BUT HE SAID
THEY WERE
TO BE HIS
SUCCESSORS!



DOES THAT
MEAN HE'S
THINKING
ABOUT
RETIRING?

IS HE
PLANNING
TO LEAVE
OUR SECT?



I DUNNO,
BUT
I DON'T
LIKE IT...

PLAYING
FAVORITES



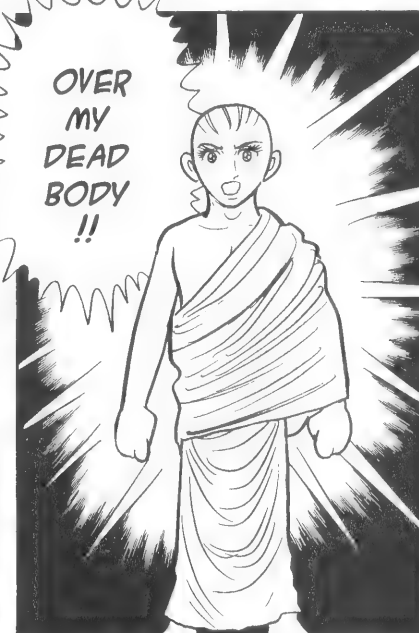
BUDDHA
NAMED
HIS HEIRS
?!



WHO
?



THESE
NEW FACES
CALLED
MOGGALLANA
AND
SARIPUTTA.

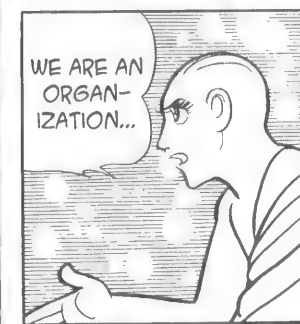
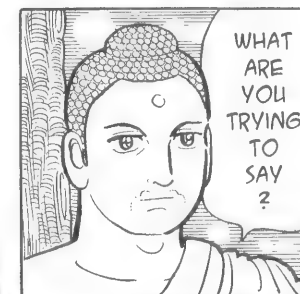
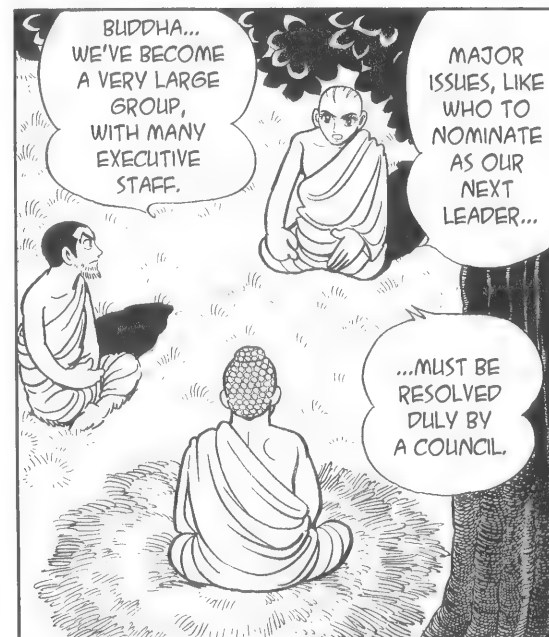
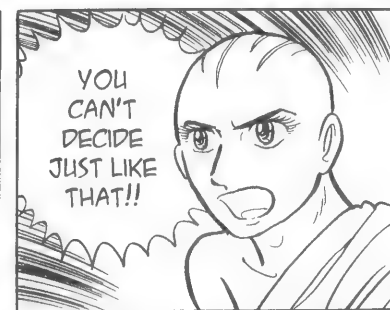
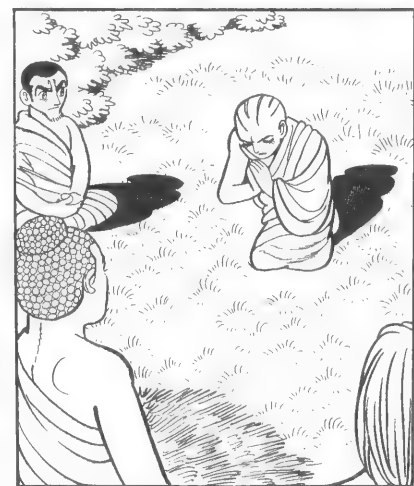
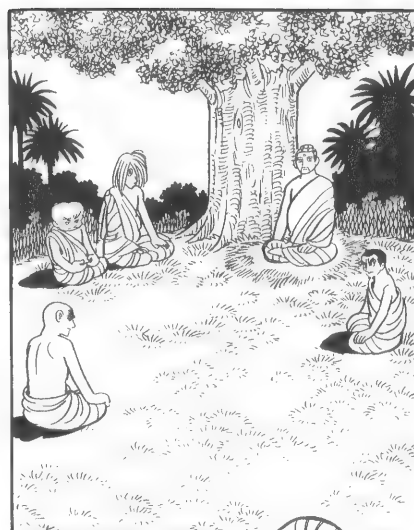
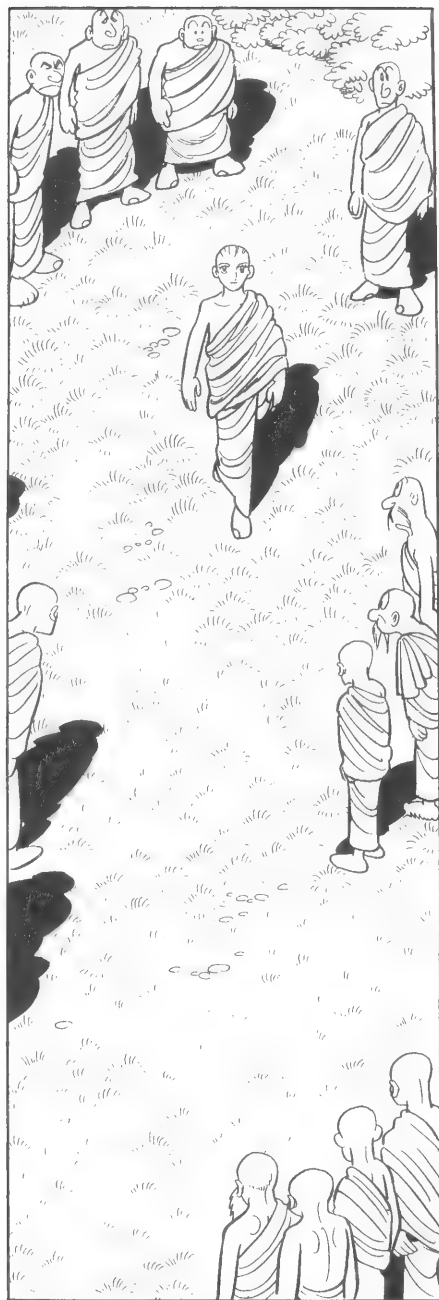


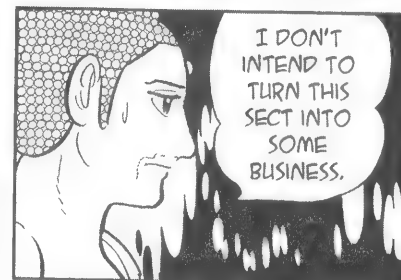
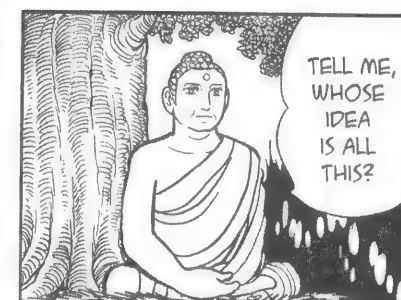
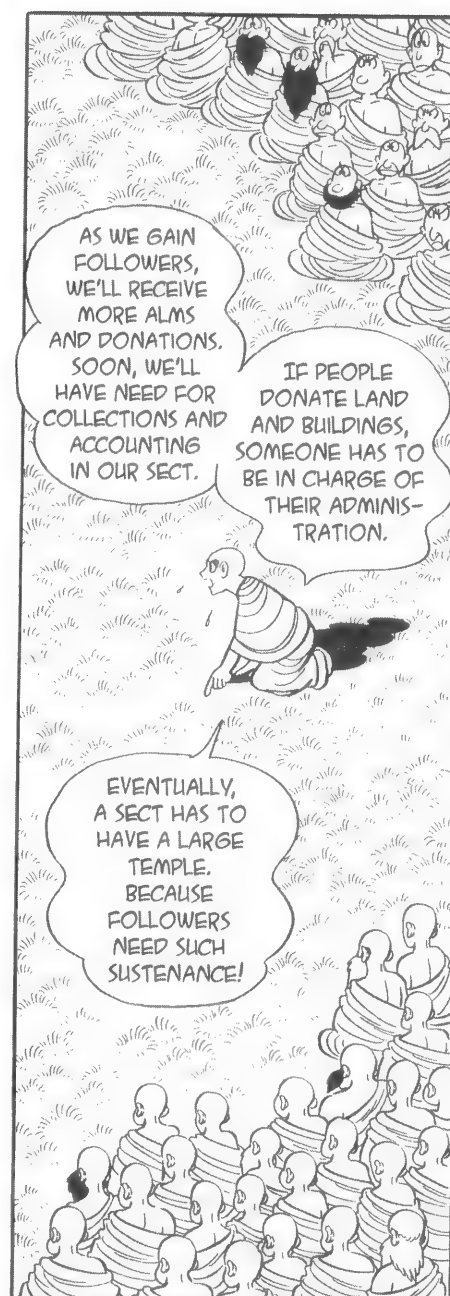
OVER
MY
DEAD
BODY
!!



I,
DEVADATTA,
AM THE
SECT'S
TRUE HEIR!

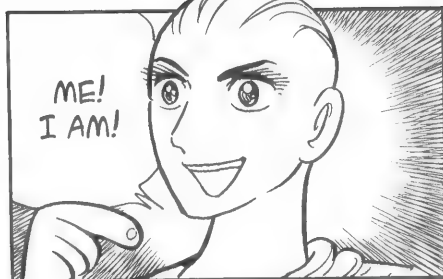
I GUESS
I NEED TO
TALK TO
BUDDHA!!







AND WHO DO YOU THINK IS READY FOR THIS TASK?

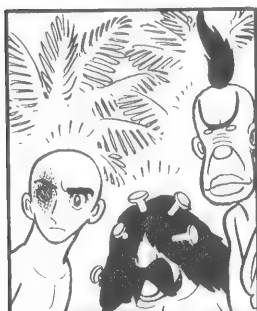


ME!
I AM!



NO ONE IN OUR SECT IS BETTER SUITED TO ASSUME THE MANTLE OF LEADERSHIP!

AS YOUR MOST CAPABLE MANAGER, I'VE LED EFFORTS TO STREAMLINE AND MODERNIZE THIS SECT.



I'M CUT OUT TO BE YOUR SUCCESSOR.

CONSIDER ME!



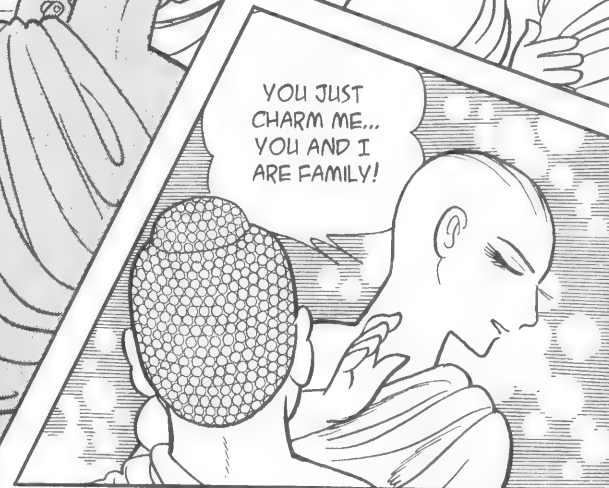
FURTHERMORE, EXCEPTING YOURSELF, I'M THE ONLY ONE WITH STRONG CONNECTIONS TO THE ROYAL FAMILY OF MAGADHA. I KNOW I HAVE THE COMPLETE TRUST OF PRINCE AJATASATTHU, BIMBISARA'S SON!



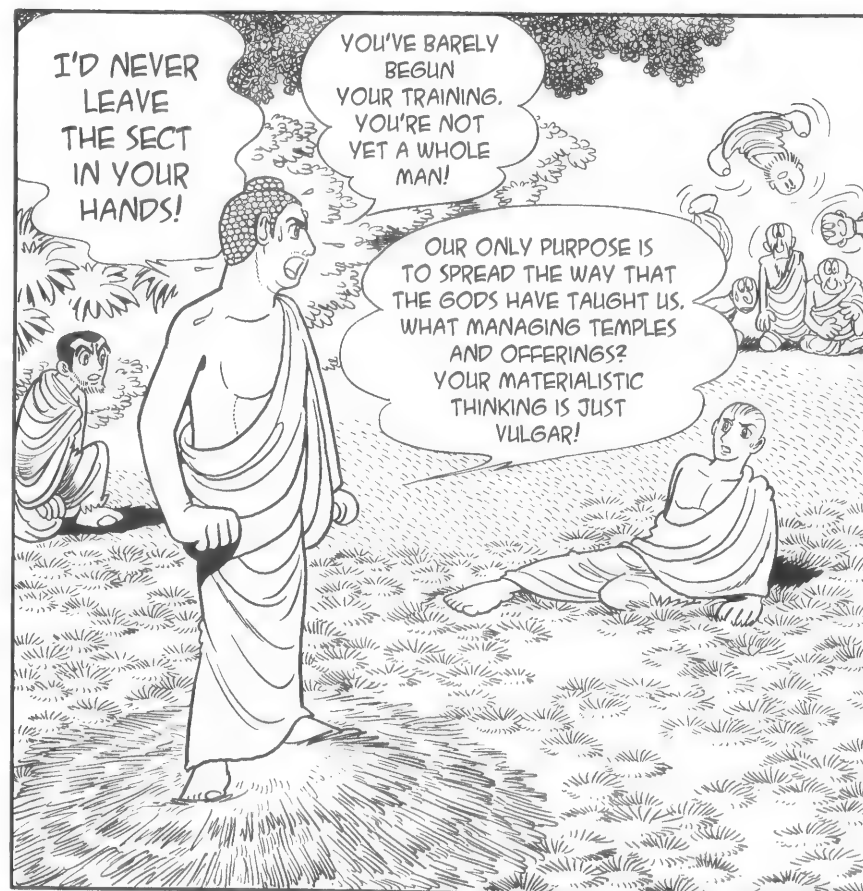
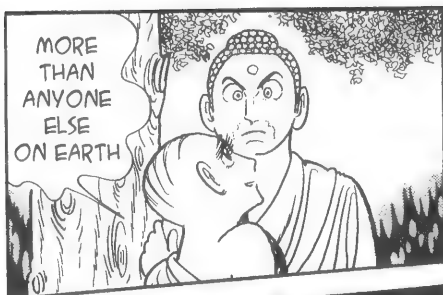
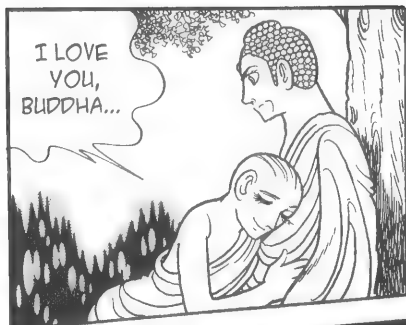
ONCE THE PRINCE ASCENDS TO THE THRONE, HE'LL BECOME OUR BIGGEST SUPPORTER!

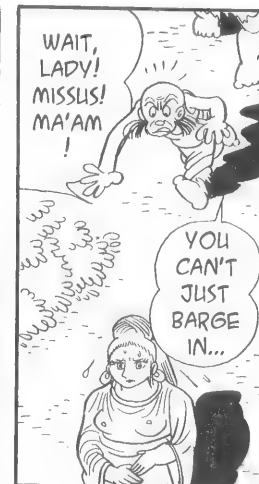
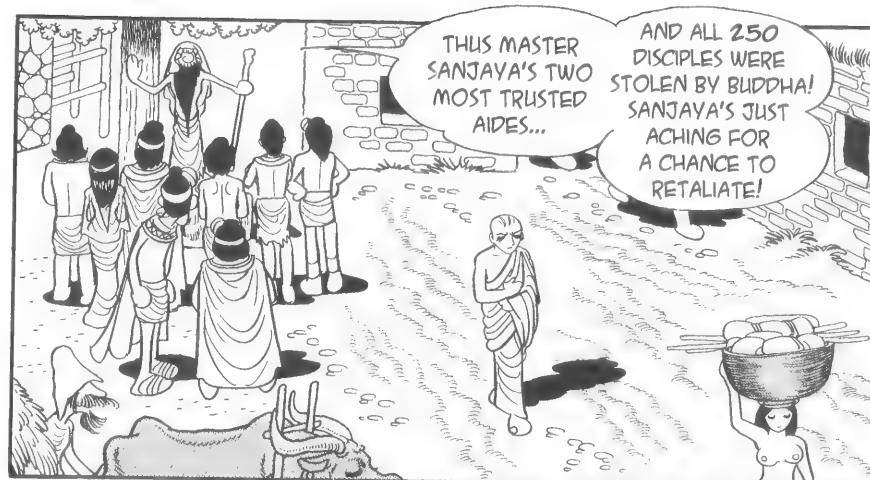
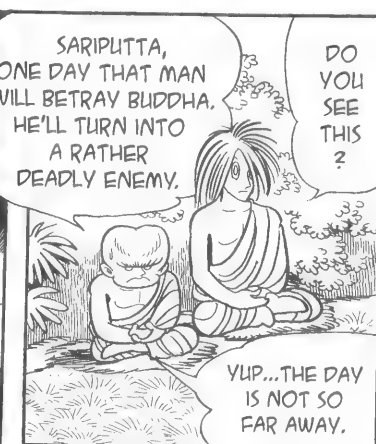
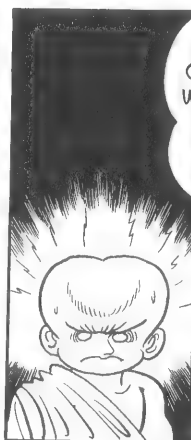
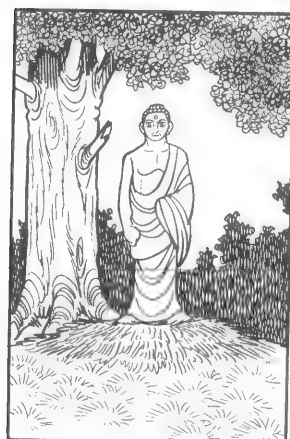
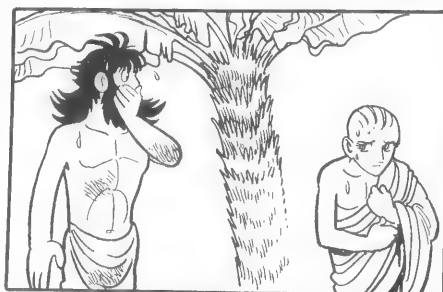
BUDDHA, PLEASE SAY YOU'LL LEAVE THE SECT TO ME!

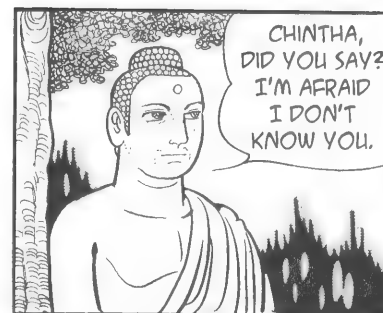
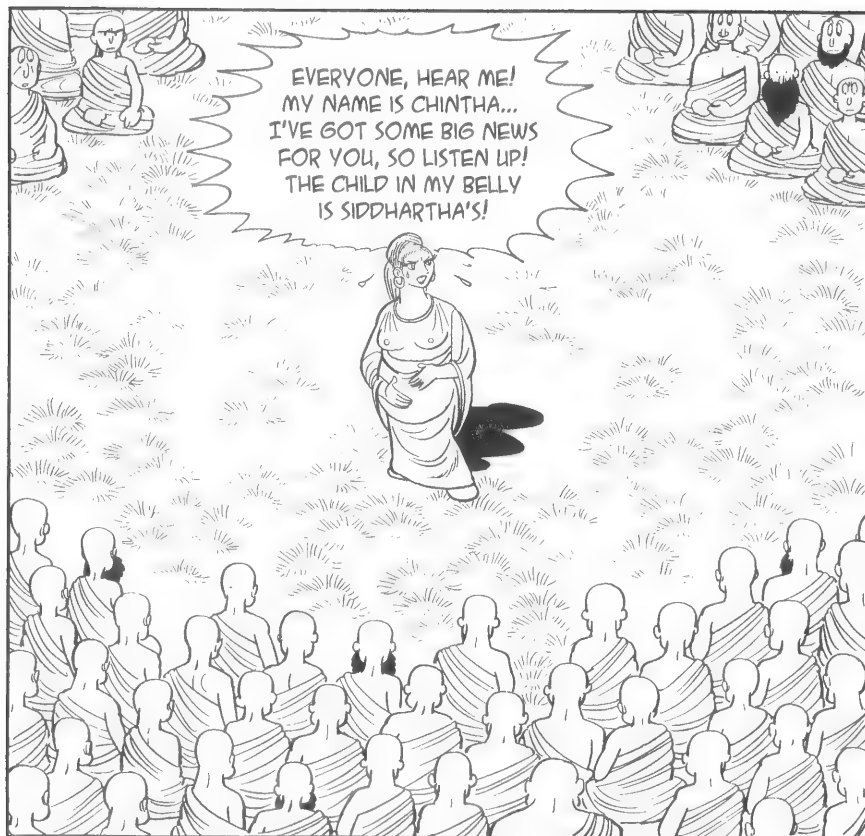
BUDDHA, I SIMPLY ADORE YOU...

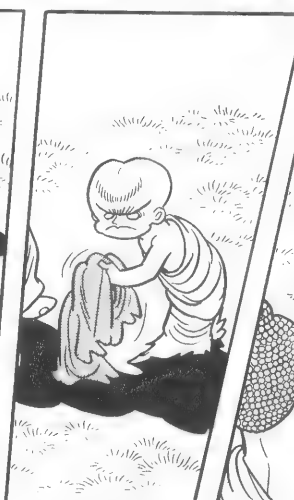
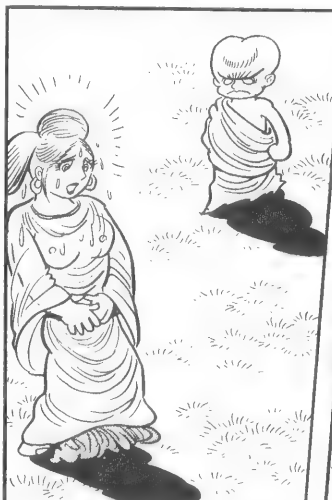
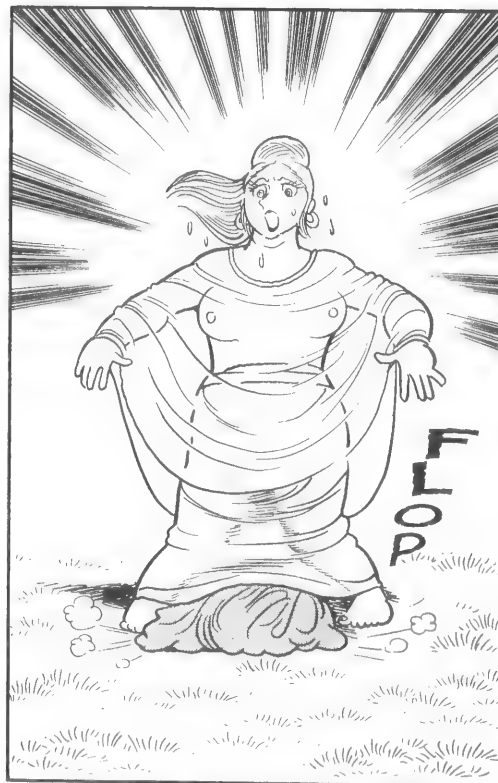
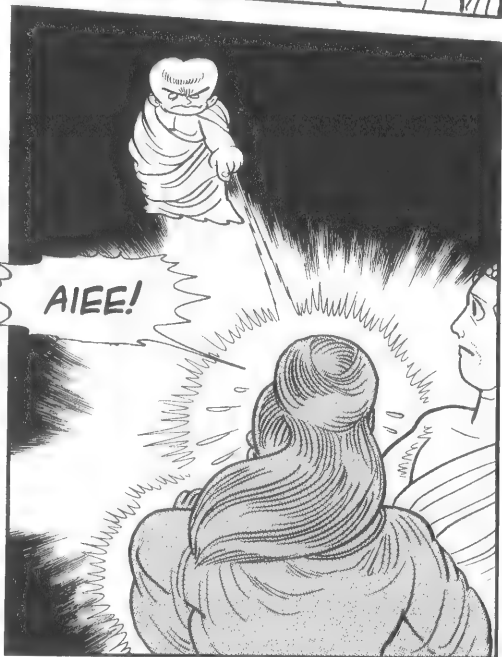
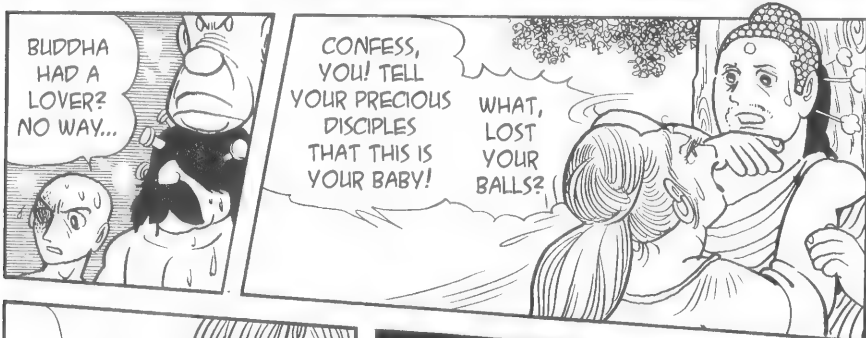


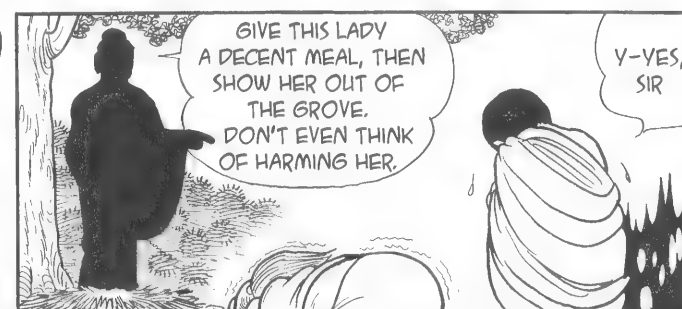
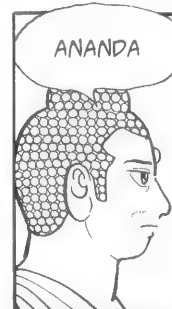
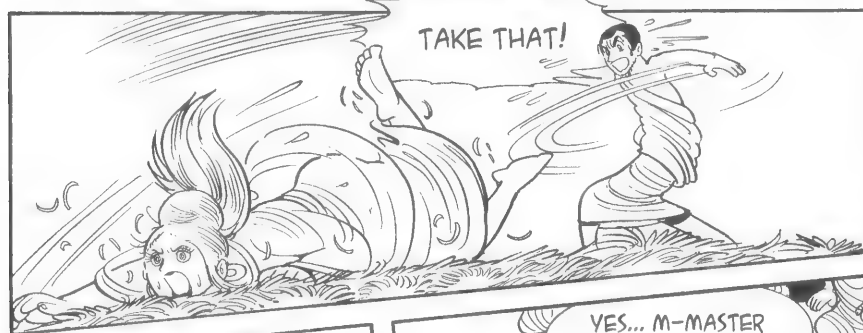
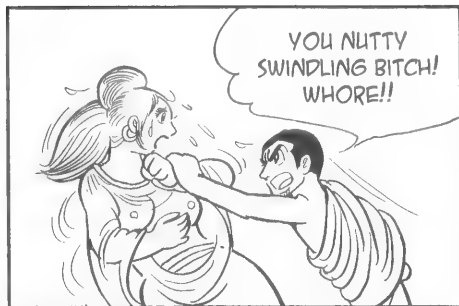
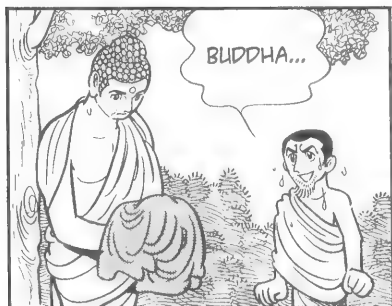
YOU JUST CHARM ME... YOU AND I ARE FAMILY!

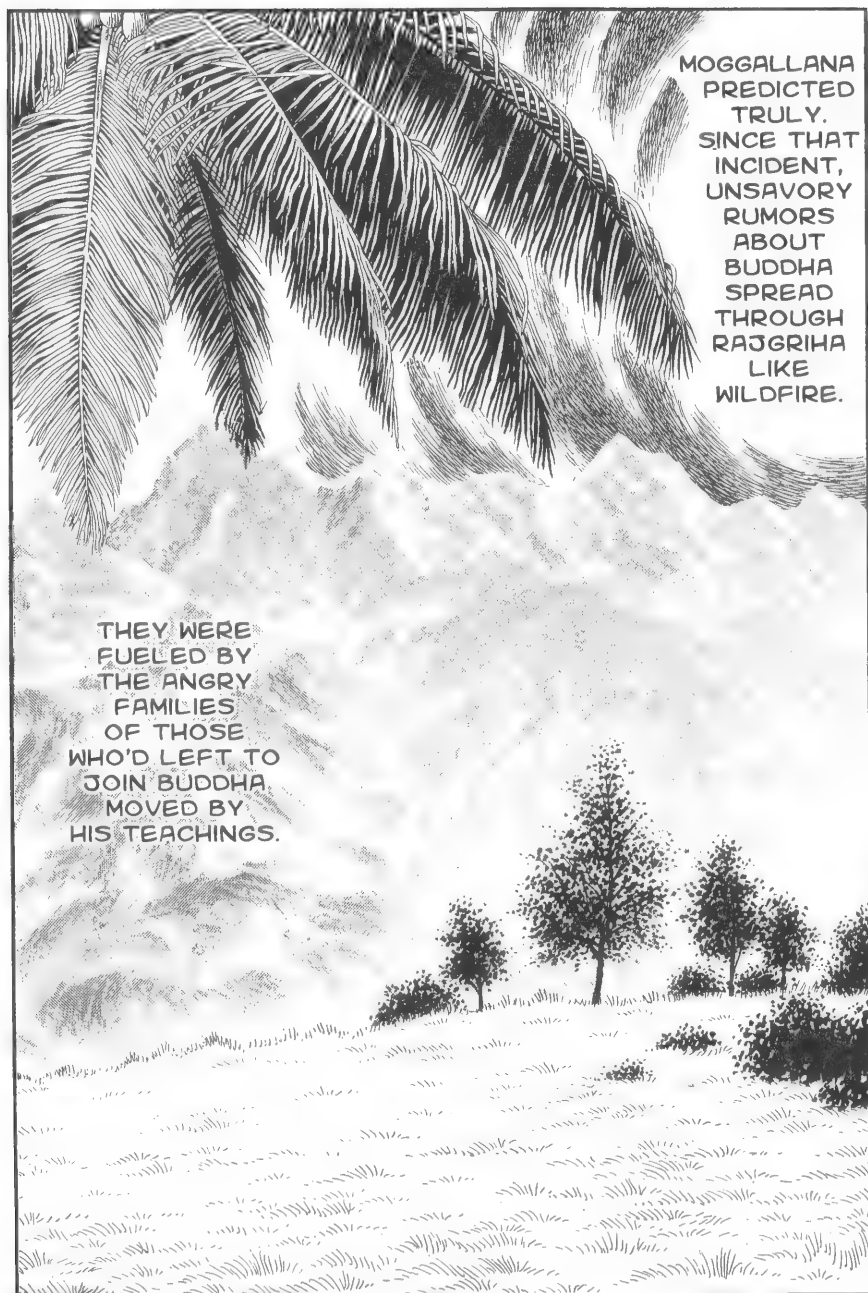


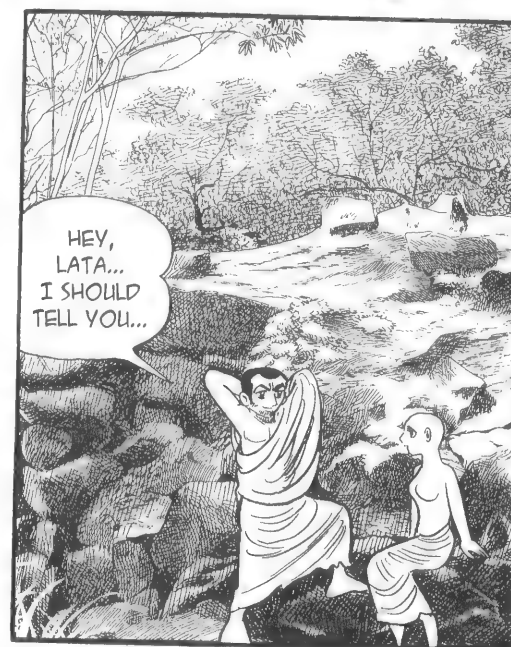
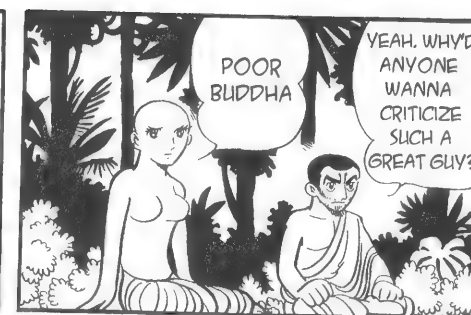


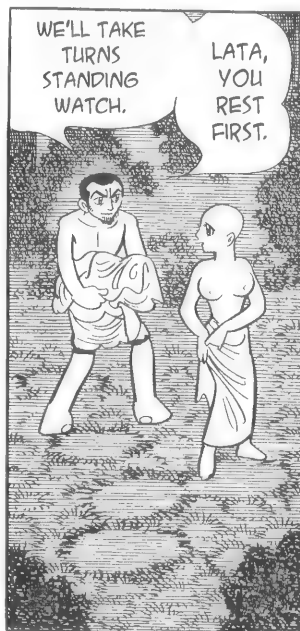
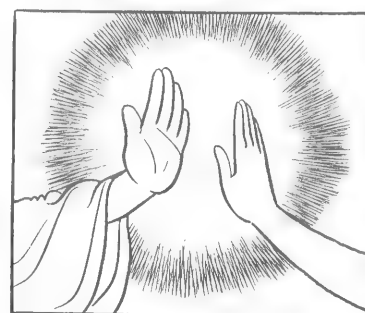
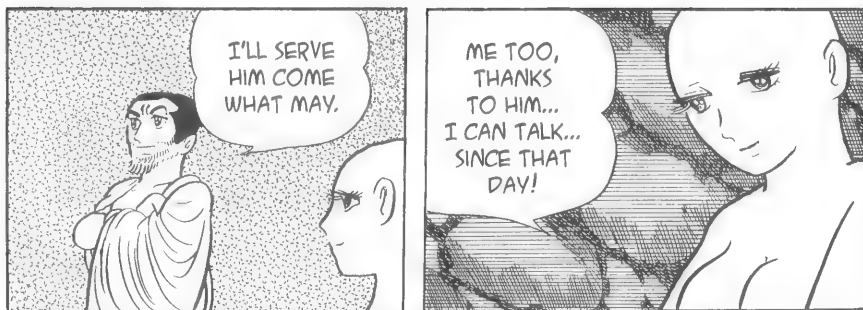


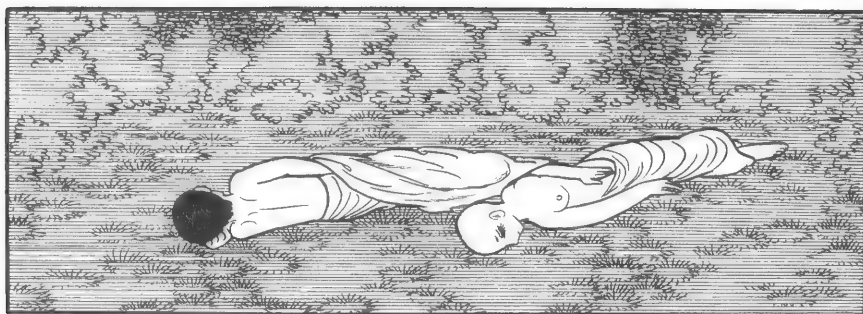


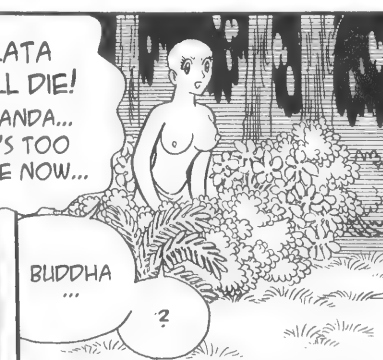
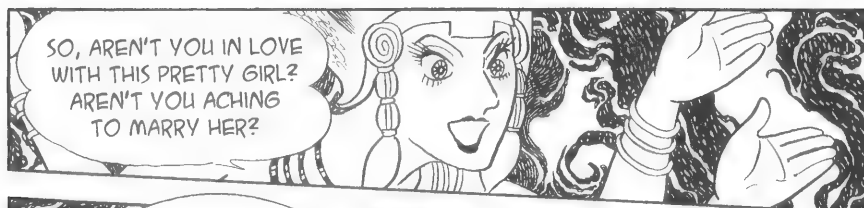


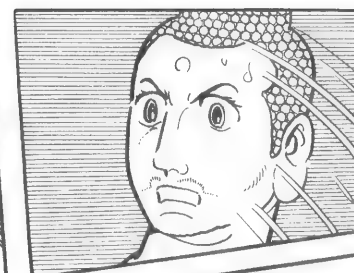
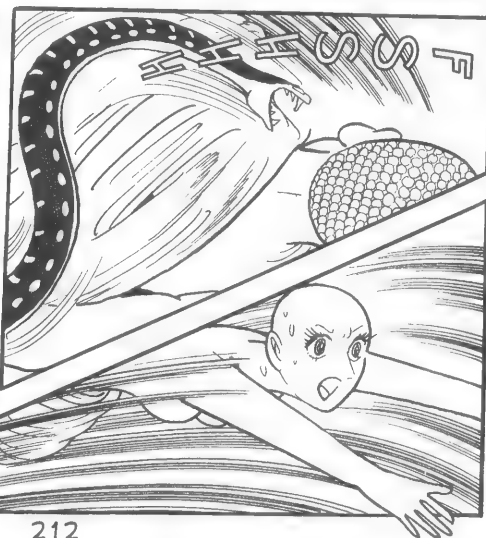
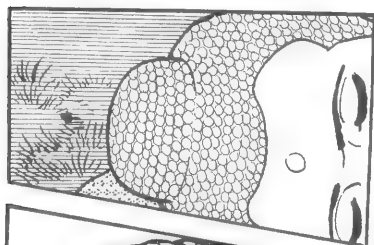
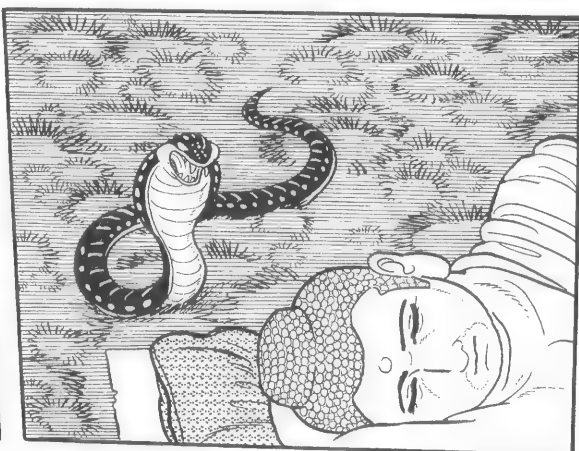
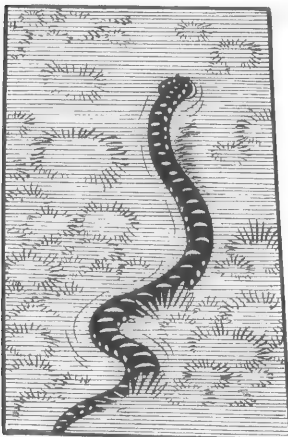
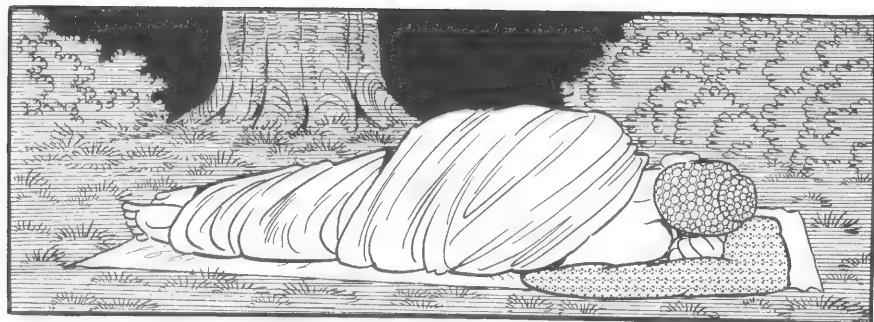










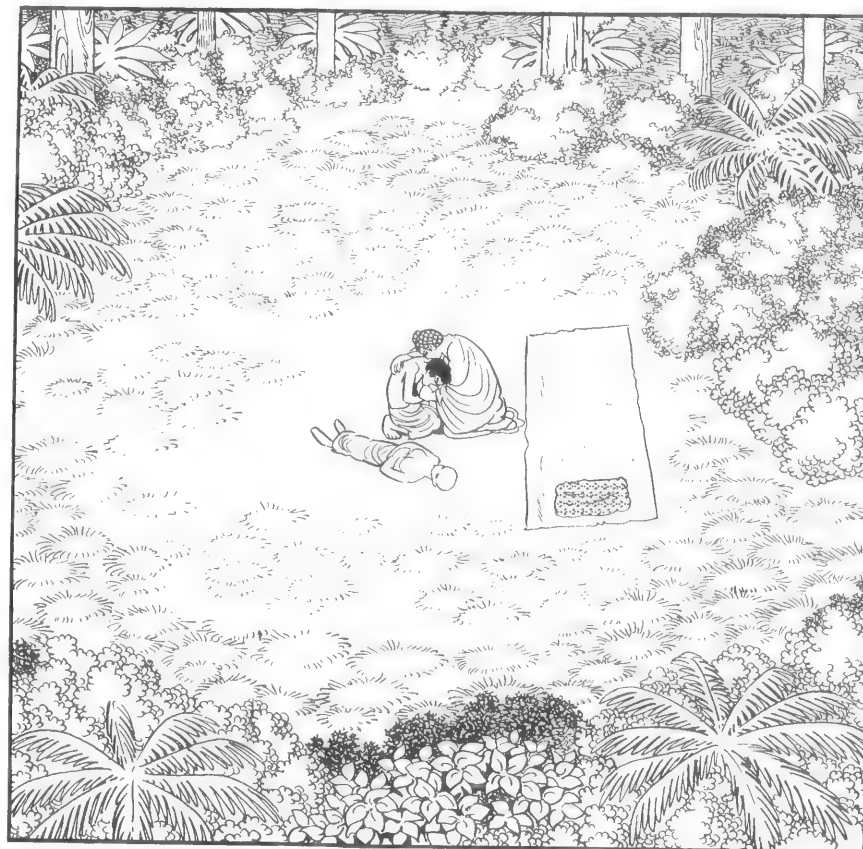
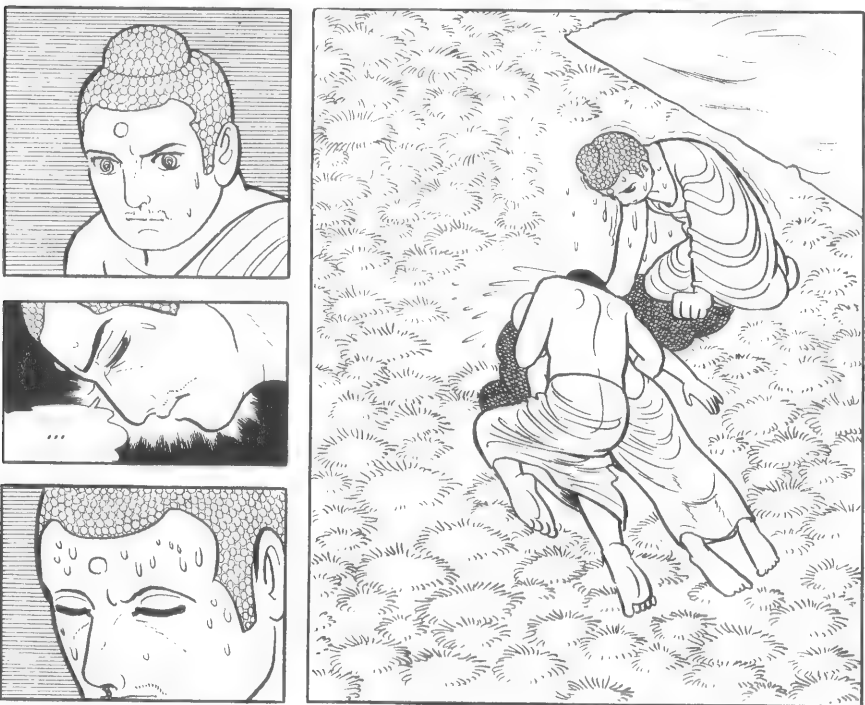


LATA

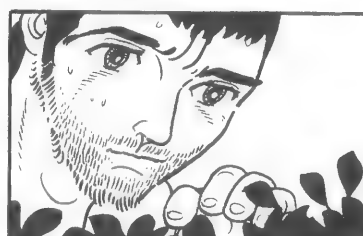
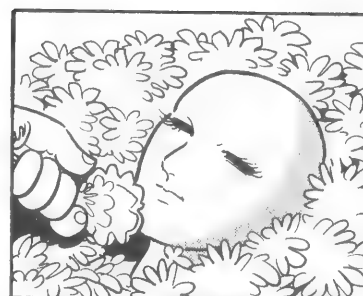
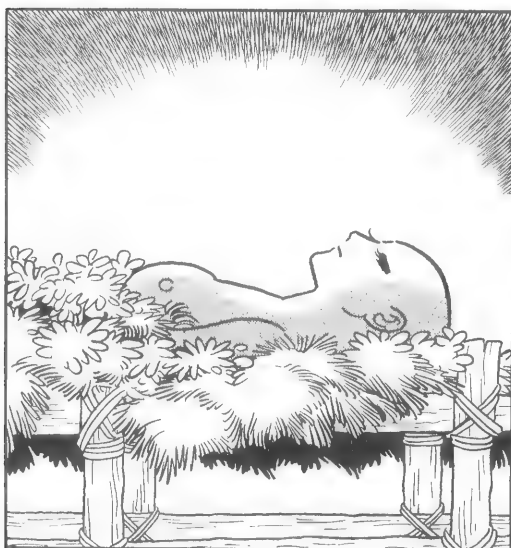


LA-TAA!!





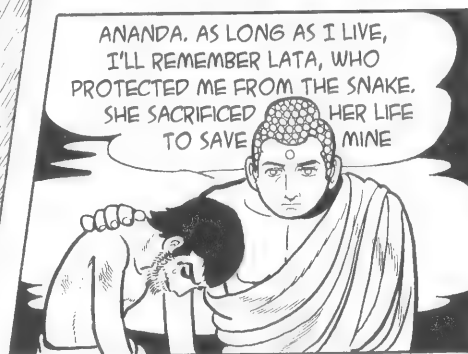
ANANDA WASHED
LATA'S BODY IN THE RIVER
AND PLACED HER ON
A WOODEN BIER ADORNED WITH
WILD GRASSES AND FLOWERS.
IT WAS ALL HE COULD DO,
THIS TOKEN OF LOVE.



IN INDIA IN THOSE DAYS,
 RITES FOR THE DECEASED
 AMOUNTED TO "AERIAL SEPULTURE,"
 WHERE THE BODY WOULD BE LEFT OUTSIDE
 UNTIL NOTHING WAS LEFT BUT BONES, OR
 A "PLATFORM BURIAL," WHERE BIRDS WOULD
 BE ALLOWED TO PICK AT THE REMAINS.
 AERIAL SEPULTURE WAS PRACTICED
 AS RECENTLY AS 200 YEARS AGO
 IN OKINAWA AND
 OTHER REGIONS OF JAPAN.



ANANDA. AS LONG AS I LIVE,
 I'LL REMEMBER LATA, WHO
 PROTECTED ME FROM THE SNAKE.
 SHE SACRIFICED HER LIFE
 TO SAVE MINE



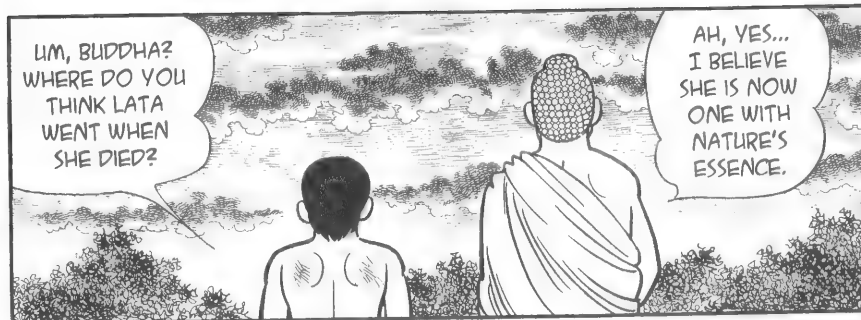
FOR HER SAKE,
 THEN, I MUST
 BE ABOUT
 MORE OFTEN,
 TO DELIVER
 SERMONS.

WE WILL BE
 DOING HER
 PART TOO
 AS WE TRY
 TO SAVE
 PEOPLE.



UM, BUDDHA?
 WHERE DO YOU
 THINK LATA
 WENT WHEN
 SHE DIED?

AH, YES...
 I BELIEVE
 SHE IS NOW
 ONE WITH
 NATURE'S
 ESSENCE.

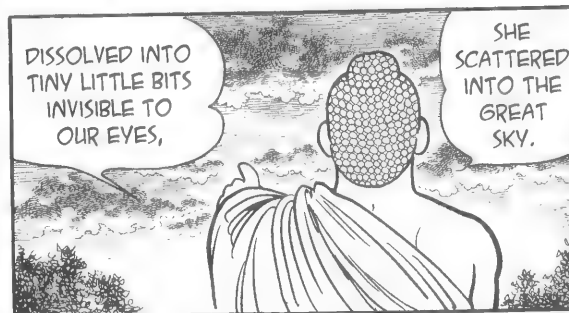


WHAT
 DOES
 THAT
 MEAN?



DISSOLVED INTO
 TINY LITTLE BITS
 INVISIBLE TO
 OUR EYES,

SHE
 SCATTERED
 INTO THE
 GREAT
 SKY.

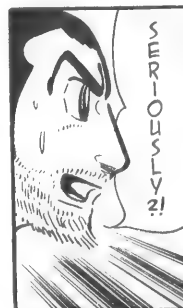


SOMEDAY
 WE SHALL
 GO, TOO...

AND
 THERE
 INTERMINGLE
 WITH LATA



SERIOUSLY?!



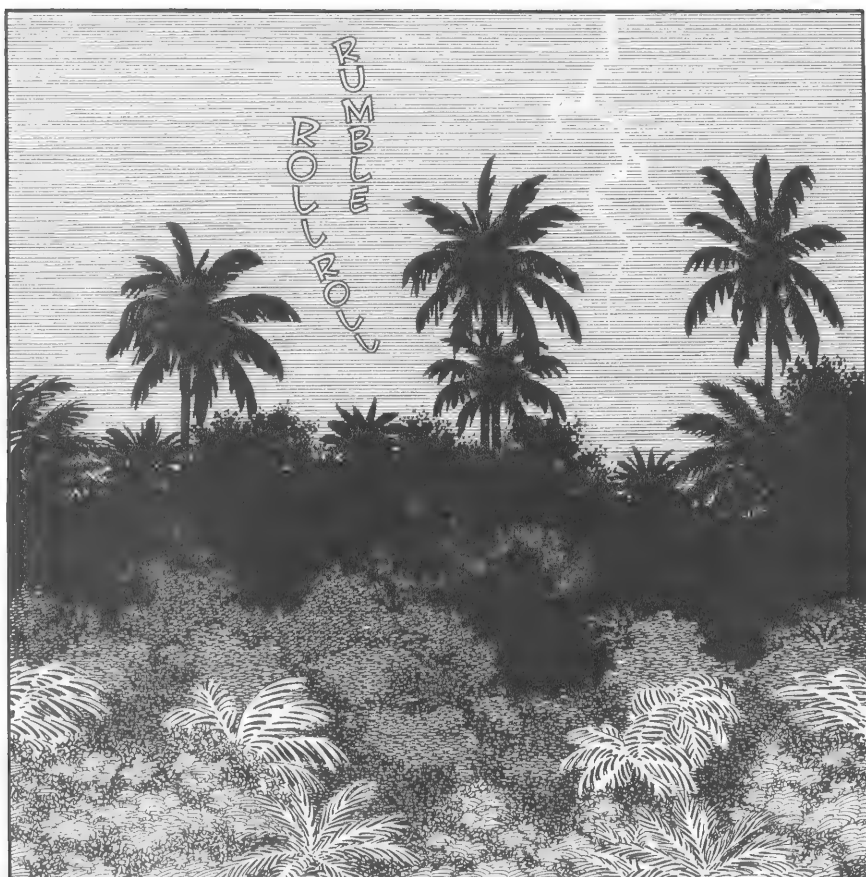
SUCH ARE
 THE LAWS OF
 THE UNIVERSE.

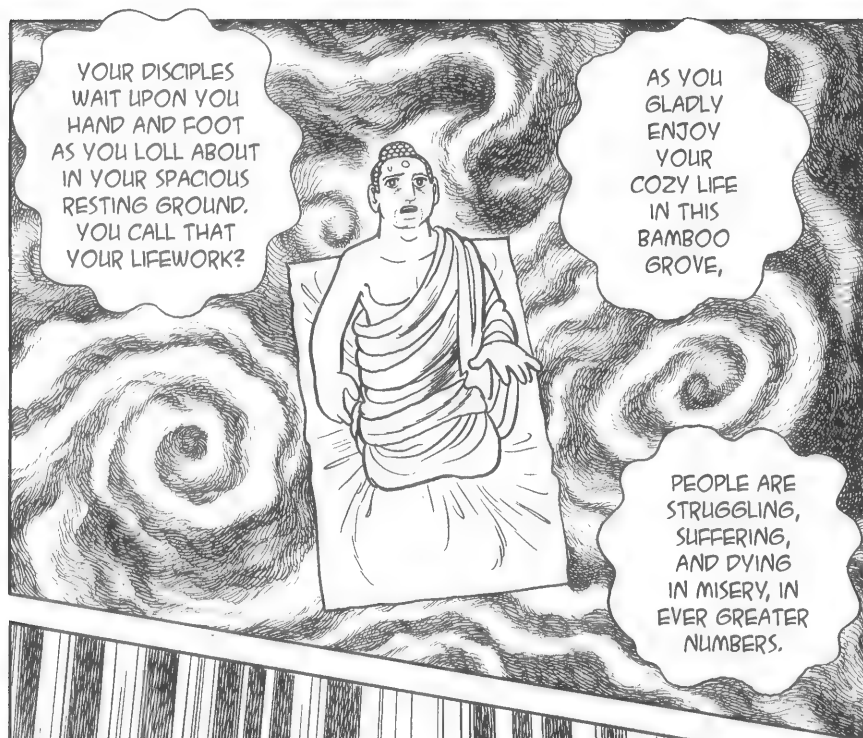


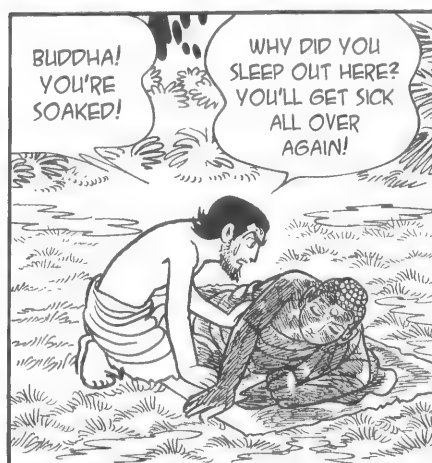
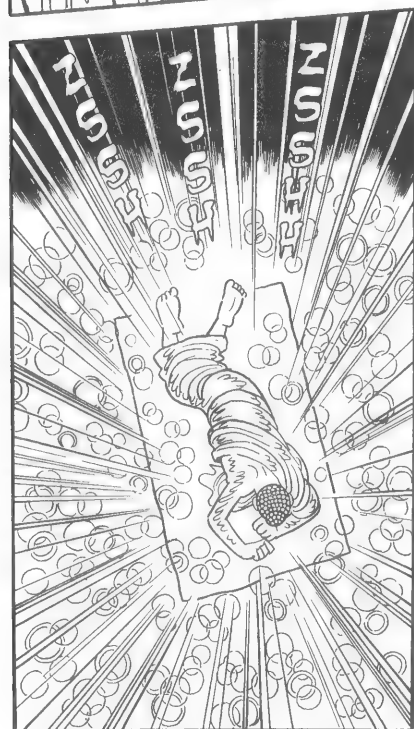
THEN
 I'LL
 MEET
 HER
 AGAIN?!

I
 THINK
 SO



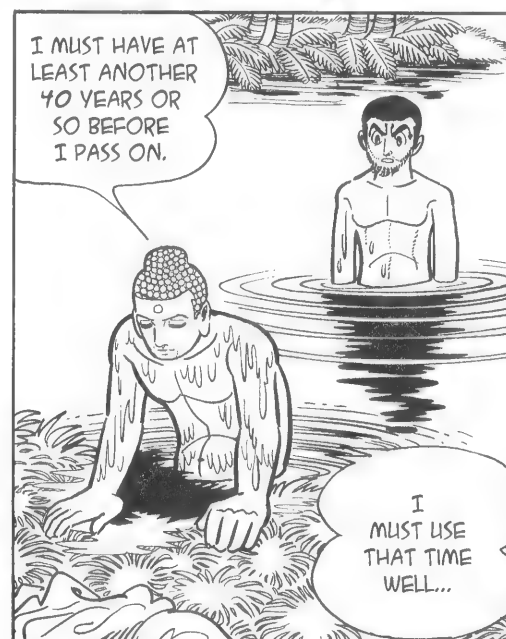
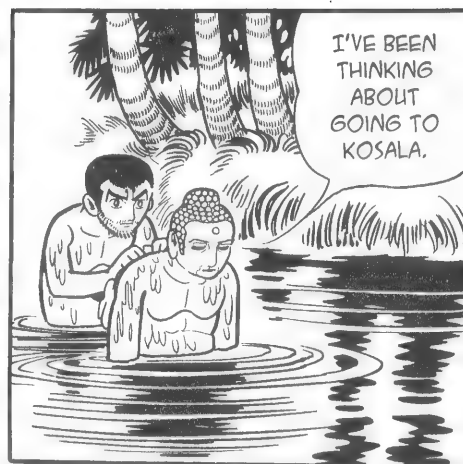
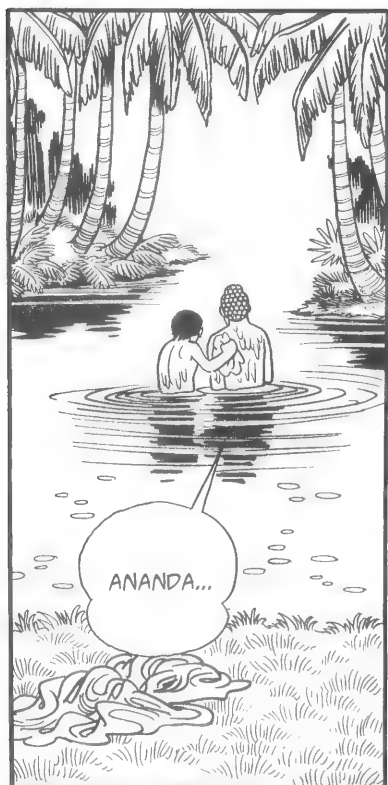


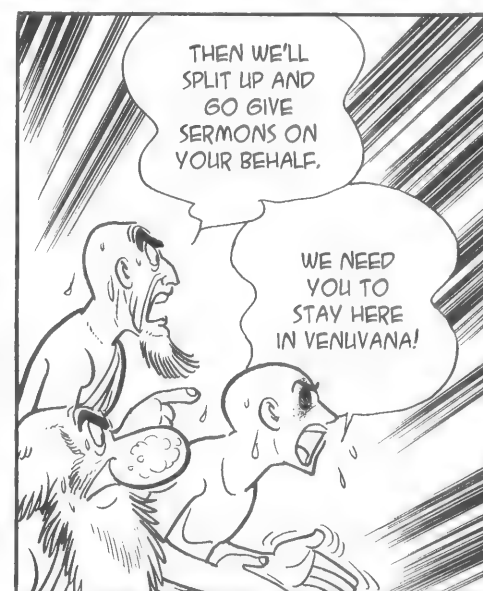
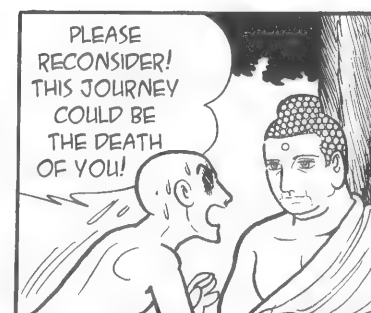
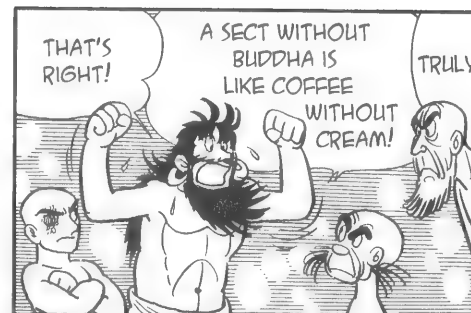




CHAPTER THREE

DEATH SWAMP



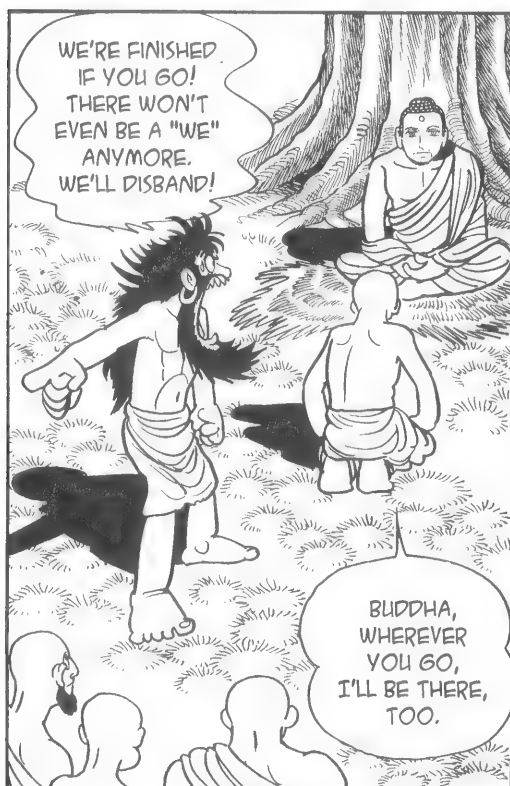




TRUE.
IT IS AS
YOU SAY,
BUT...



DAMMIT!
YOU CAN'T
JUST GO DO
WHATEVER
THE HELL
YOU WANT!



WE'RE FINISHED.
IF YOU GO!
THERE WON'T
EVEN BE A "WE"
ANYMORE.
WE'LL DISBAND!

BUDDHA,
WHEREVER
YOU GO,
I'LL BE THERE,
TOO.



ME,
TOO
!!



US
TOO
!



LET US
WALK
WITH
YOU!



PLEASE
TAKE US
WITH
YOU!



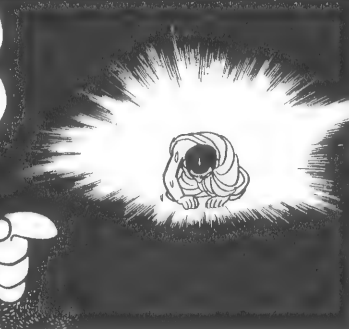
THANK YOU,
BUT I CAN'T
HAVE
SO MANY
COME
WITH ME.

WE'D BE
TOO GREAT
A BURDEN
ON THOSE
WHO WOULD
HOUSE OR
FEED US.

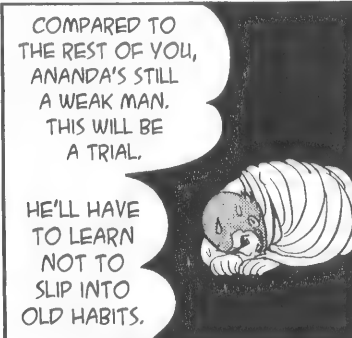


I WILL
BRING
ANANDA
AND HIM
ONLY.

I PROMISE
I WILL
RETURN.
STAY HERE
IN VENUVANA.



LUCKY
BASTARD!

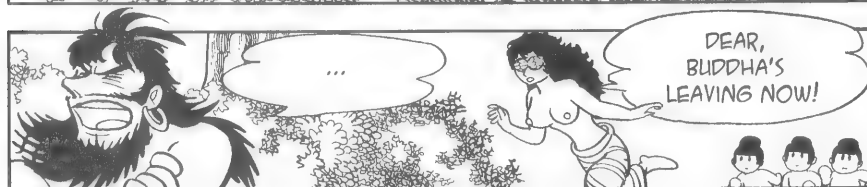


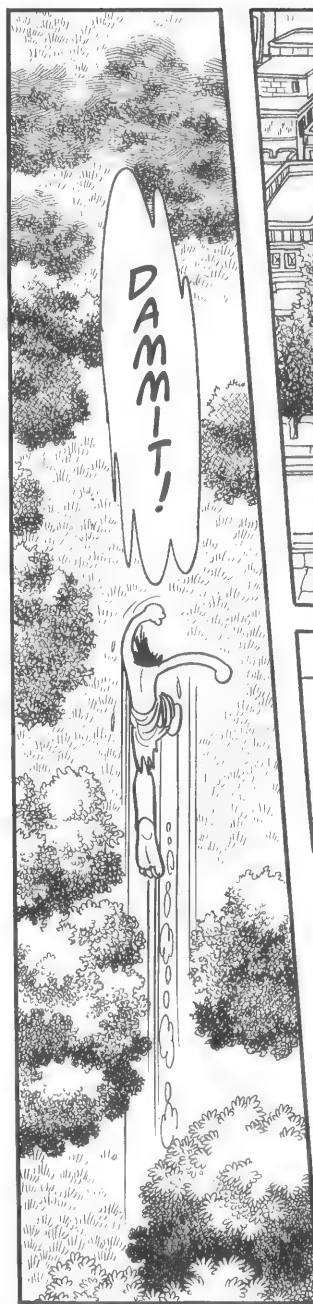
COMPARED TO
THE REST OF YOU,
ANANDA'S STILL
A WEAK MAN.
THIS WILL BE
A TRIAL.

HE'LL HAVE
TO LEARN
NOT TO
SLIP INTO
OLD HABITS.



AW,
HELL







HE'S GONE, YOU SAY?



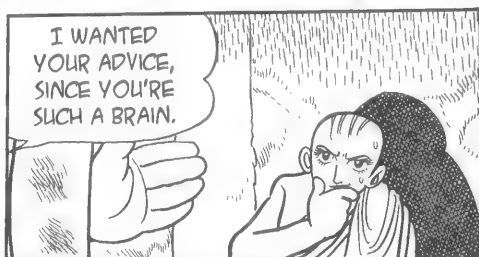
YEAH, OFF TO KOSALA! HE WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE.



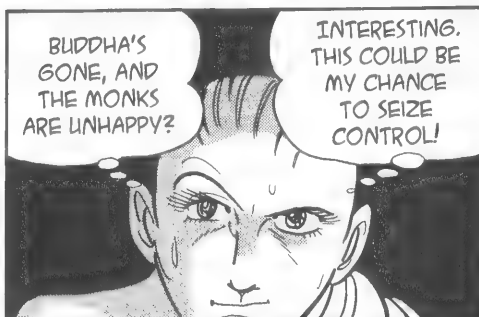
SO WHO'S STILL IN THE BAMBOO GROVE?



A THOUSAND DISCIPLES! BUDDHA LEFT SARIPUTTA AND MOGGALLANA IN CHARGE, BUT EVERYONE'S UNHAPPY. THE SMALLEST UPSET COULD DESTROY THE SECT!



I WANTED YOUR ADVICE, SINCE YOU'RE SUCH A BRAIN.

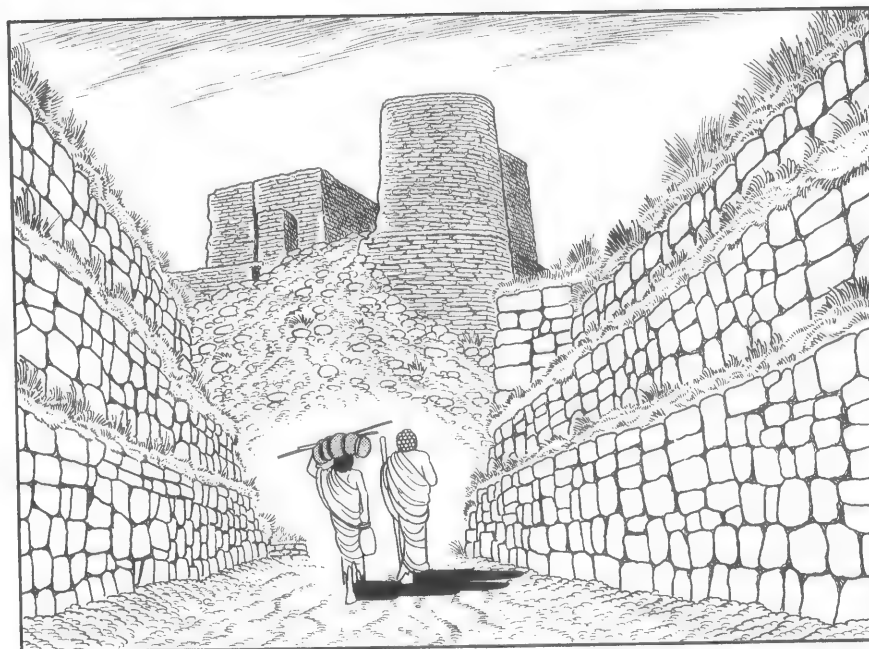


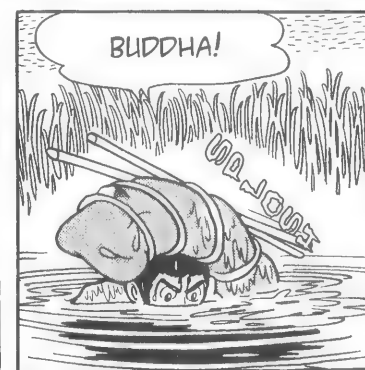
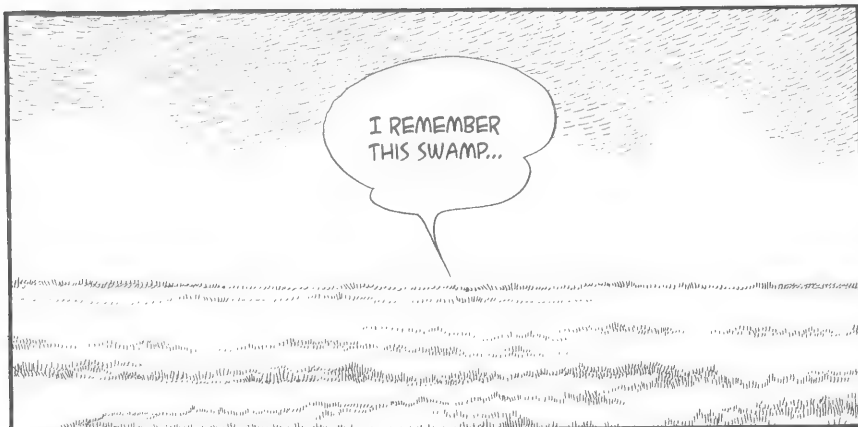
BUDDHA'S GONE, AND THE MONKS ARE UNHAPPY?

INTERESTING. THIS COULD BE MY CHANCE TO SEIZE CONTROL!

UNAWARE OF DEVADATTA'S SECRET MUSINGS

BUDDHA AND ANANDA JOURNEYED EVER NORTHWARD.







THIS IS ONE
SERIOUS SWAMP.
ISN'T THERE
AT LEAST
SOME SHOAL
OR BANK TO
REST ON?



IT'S LIKE
THIS THE
WHOLE
WAY. AND
LAST TIME,
IT RAINED.



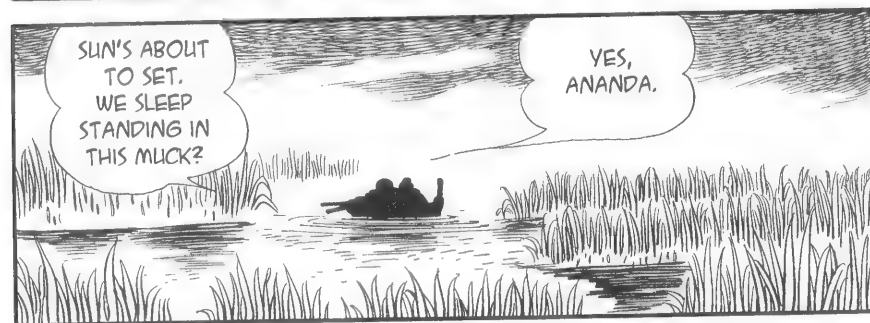
ASSAJI, WHOM YOU
KNOW, WAS ALSO
WITH US. HE GOT
VERY SICK AND
NEARLY DIED.



WE NURSED
HIM IN
A TOWN UP
AHEAD

THERE'S
A TOWN?!

INDEED.
IF WE CAN
MAKE IT
THAT FAR...



SUN'S ABOUT
TO SET.
WE SLEEP
STANDING IN
THIS MUCK?

YES,
ANANDA.



WE CAN TAKE TURNS SLEEPING.
THE ONE WHO IS AWAKE
HOLDS UP THE OTHER.
THAT'S HOW WE MADE IT
THE LAST TIME.



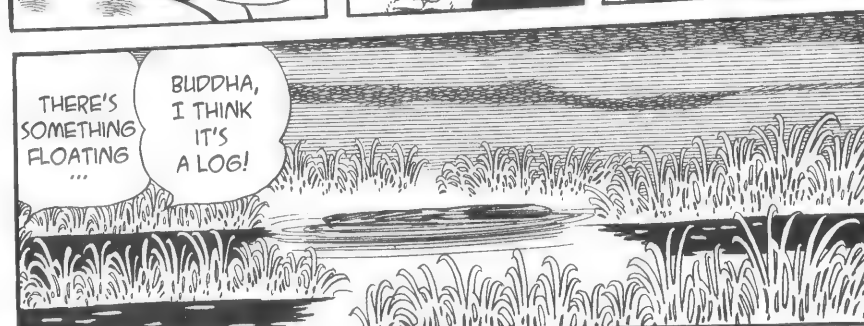
WELL, THAT
WAS THEN!
YOU'RE NOT
STRONG
ENOUGH
FOR IT
NOW.



AH...
IT'S
NO-
THING
...



BUDDHA!
WHAT'S
THAT UP
AHEAD
?



THERE'S
SOMETHING
FLOATING
...

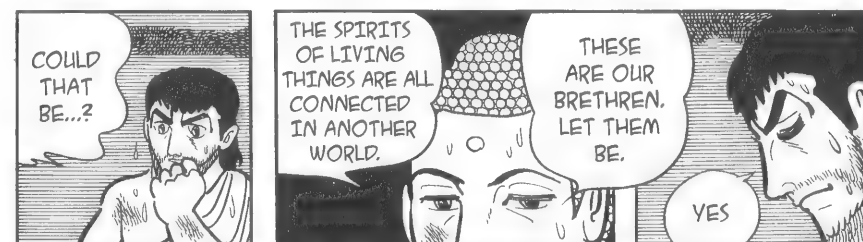
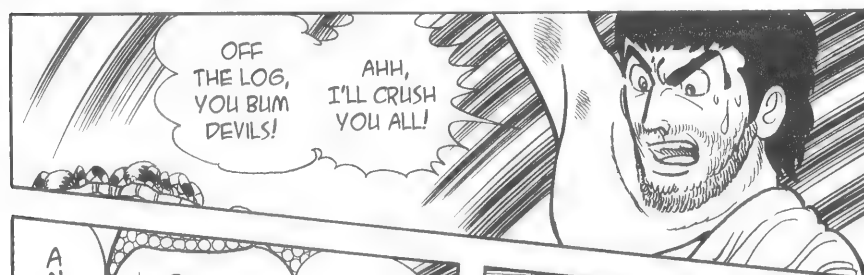
BUDDHA,
I THINK
IT'S
A LOG!

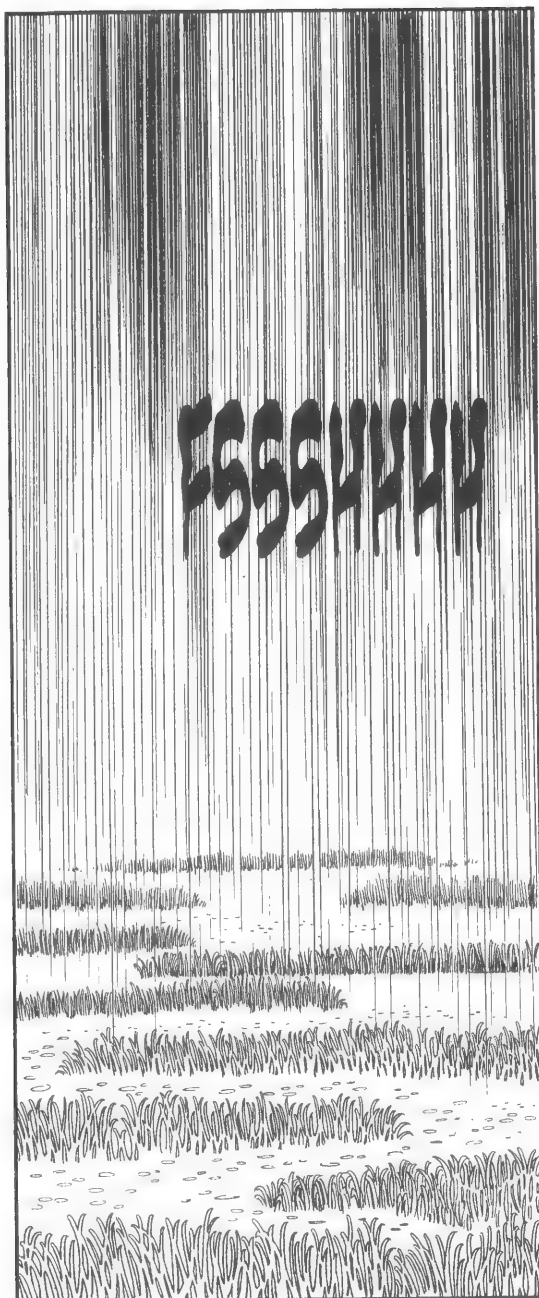


WHAT LUCK!
WITH THAT,
WE CAN
BOTH GET
SOME REST.



HUIH
?





244



245





I'M BEING TESTED
BY THE HEAVENS.
THE IDLE MAN OF
VENUVANA IS BEING
FORCED TO
REMEMBER HIS DAYS
AS AN ASCETIC.



I'LL
KEEP
GOING.
I MUST.



JUST
THINK
OF IT

AS AN
EXCELLENT TRIAL
FOR YOURSELF
AS WELL.

OKAY



M-MY FEET
CAN'T REACH
THE BOTTOM
ANYMORE!

TIME TO
SWIM,
THEN.

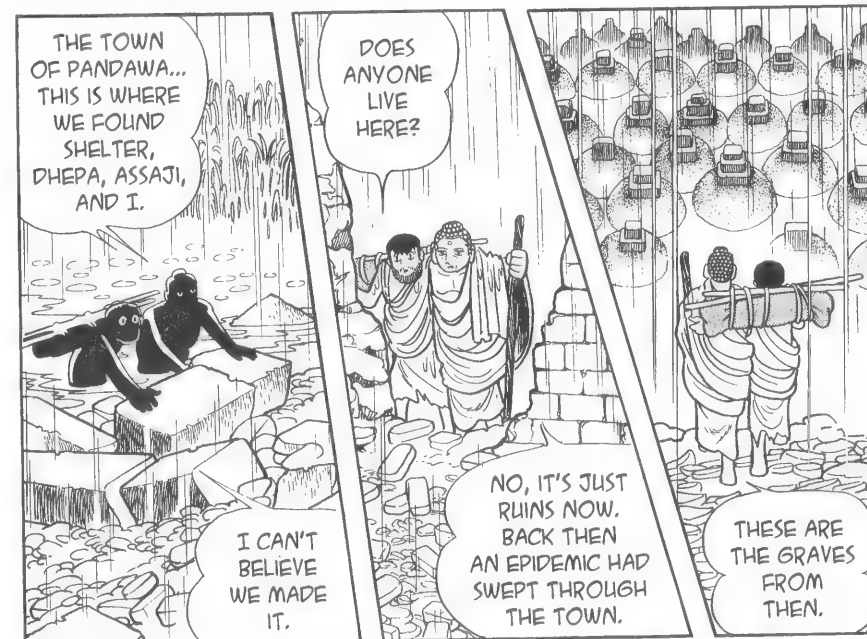


AH! I SEE
SOMETHING IN
THE DISTANCE.
LOOKS LIKE
A WALL...

THAT COULD
BE IT!
THE TOWN
WALL OF
PANDAWA!



YES!
A TOWN!
WE'RE
SAVED!



THE TOWN
OF PANDAWA...
THIS IS WHERE
WE FOUND
SHELTER,
DHEPA, ASSAJI,
AND I.

DOES
ANYONE
LIVE
HERE?

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
WE MADE
IT.

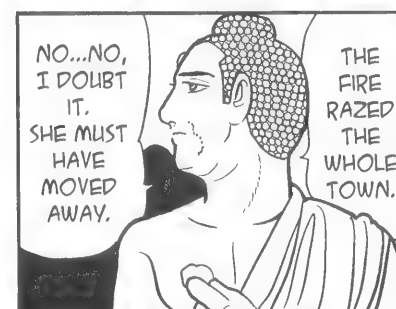
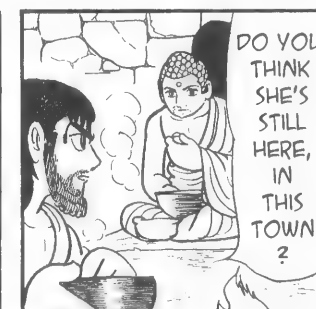
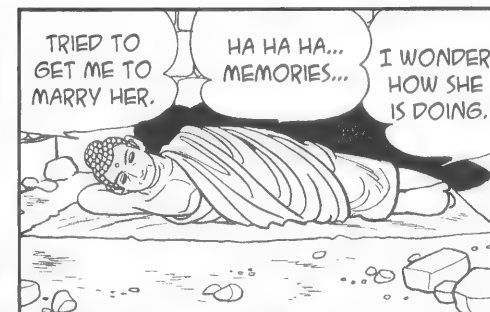
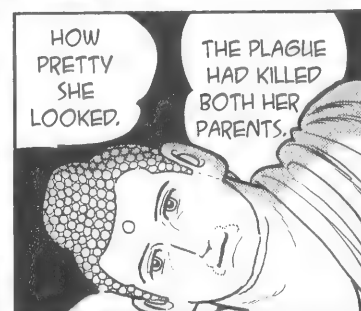
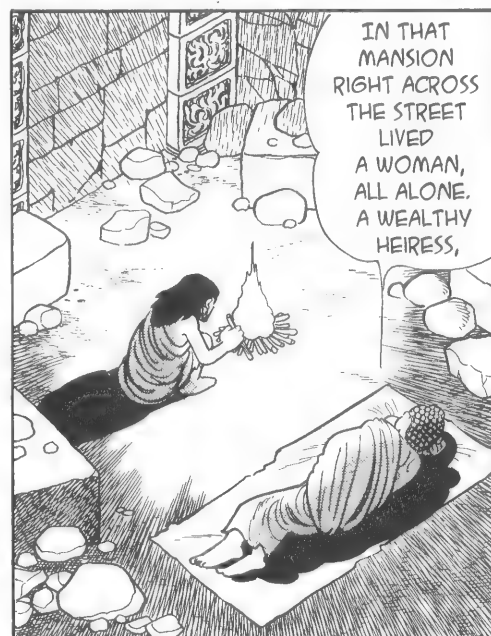
NO, IT'S JUST
RUINS NOW.
BACK THEN
AN EPIDEMIC HAD
SWEEPED THROUGH
THE TOWN.

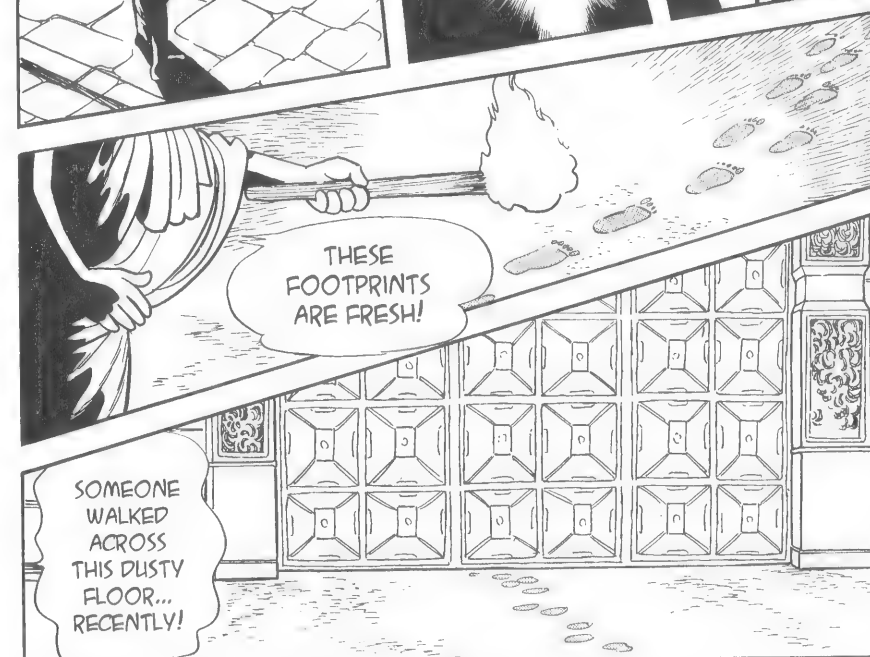
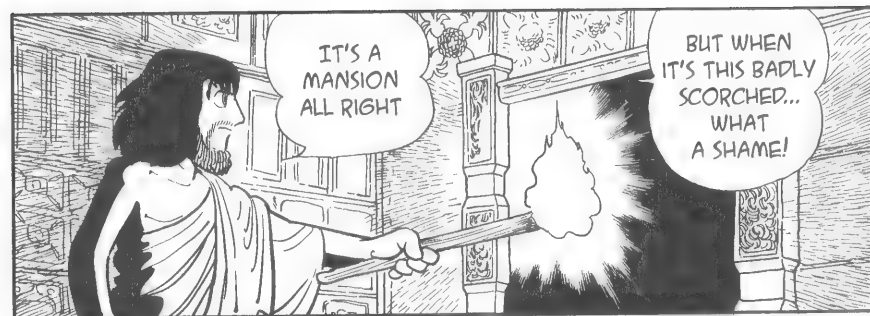
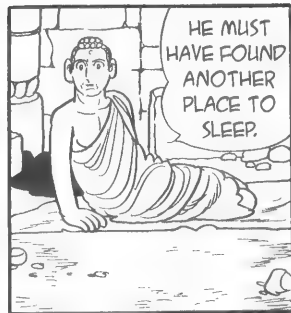
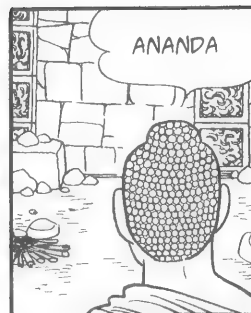
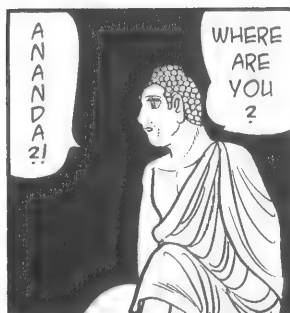
THESE ARE
THE GRAVES
FROM
THEN.

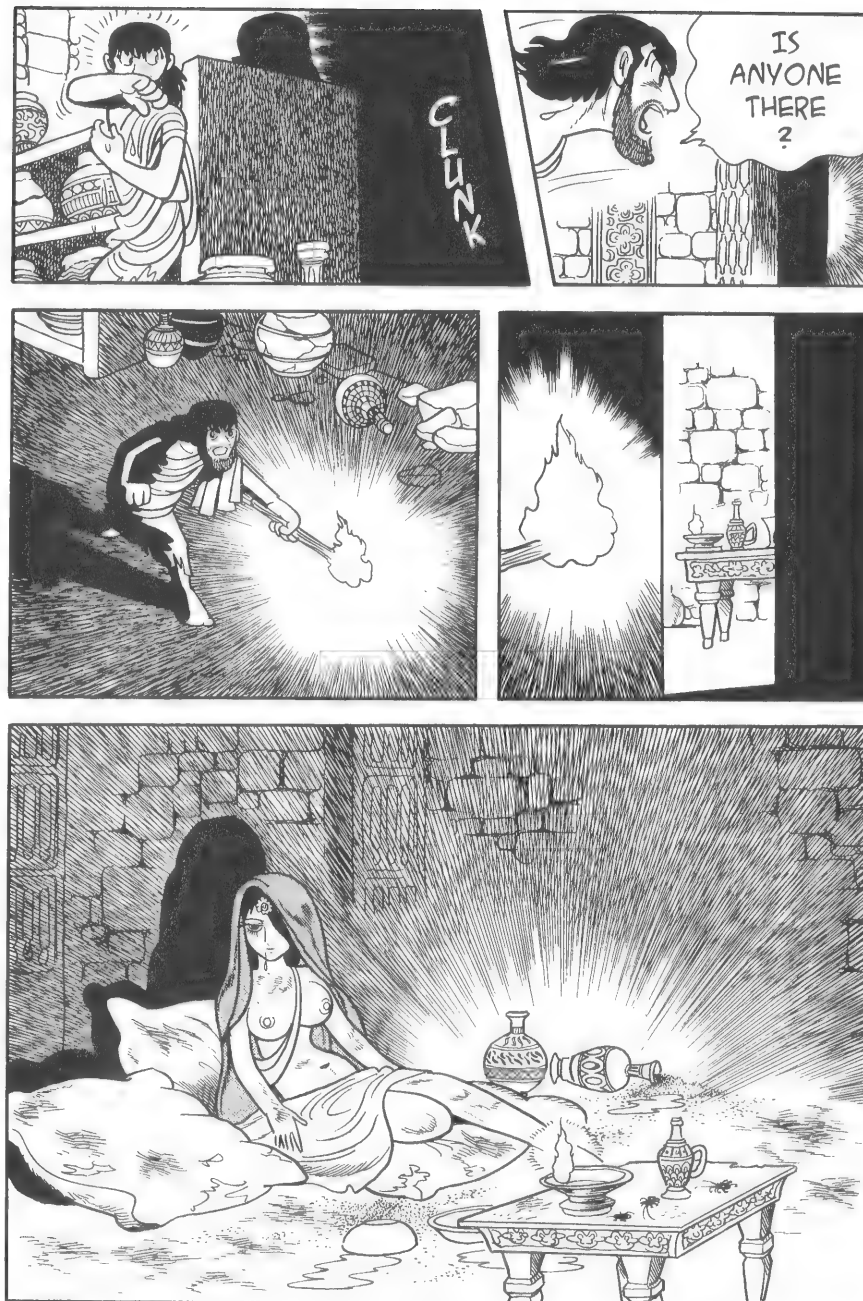


AH,
AND
THAT'S
WHERE

WE
SPENT
THE
NIGHT.



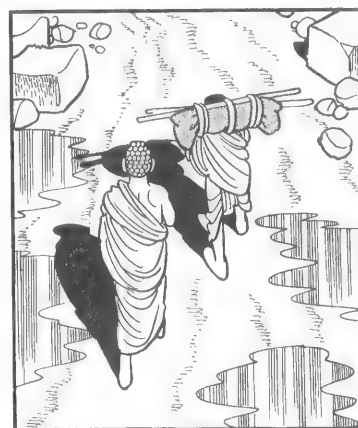
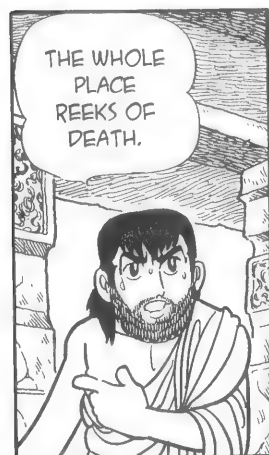
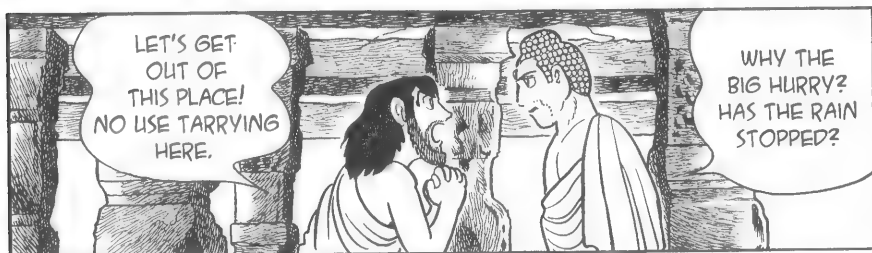


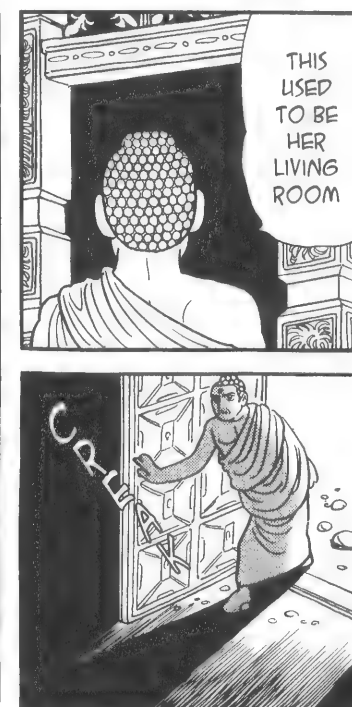
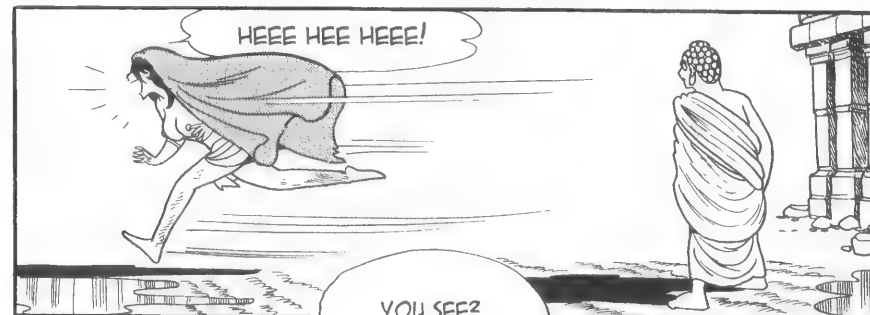


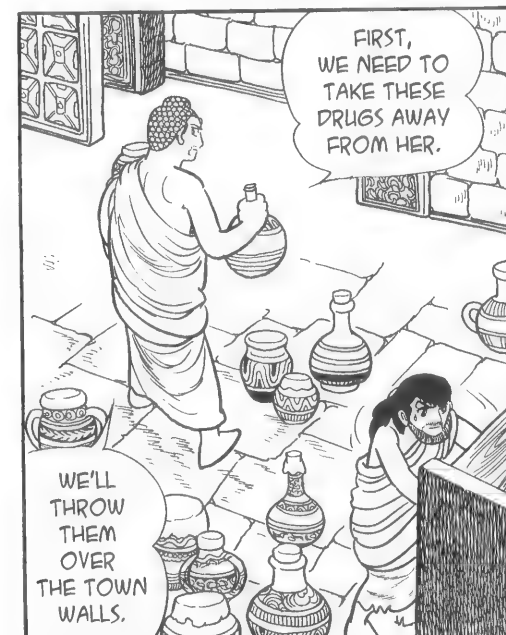
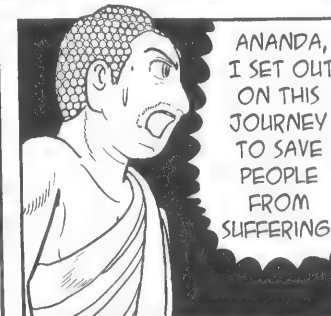
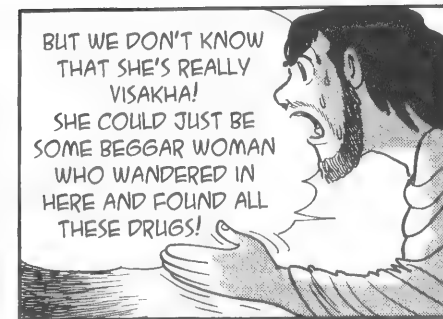
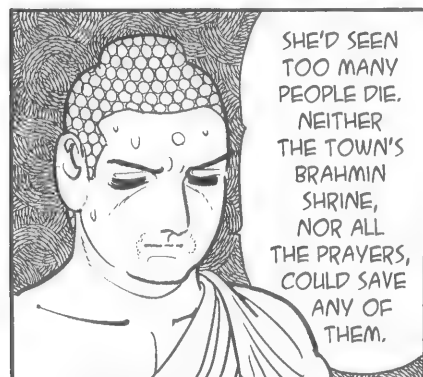
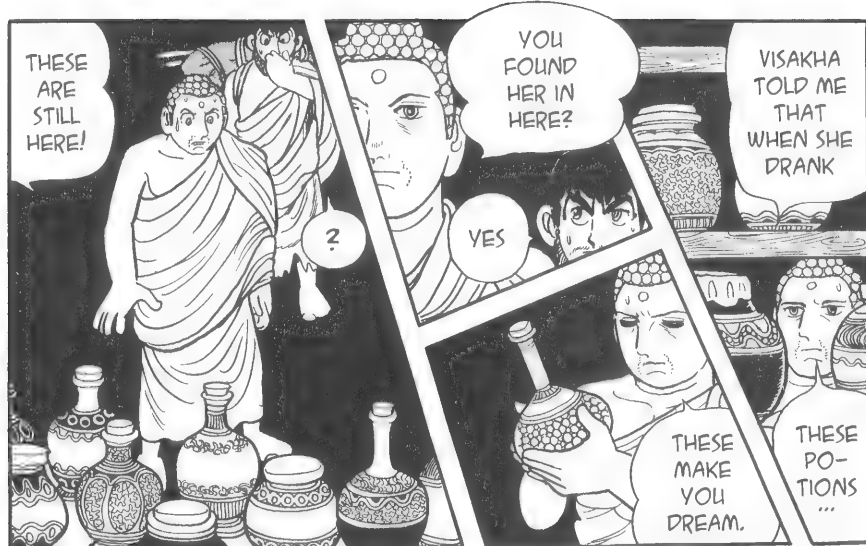


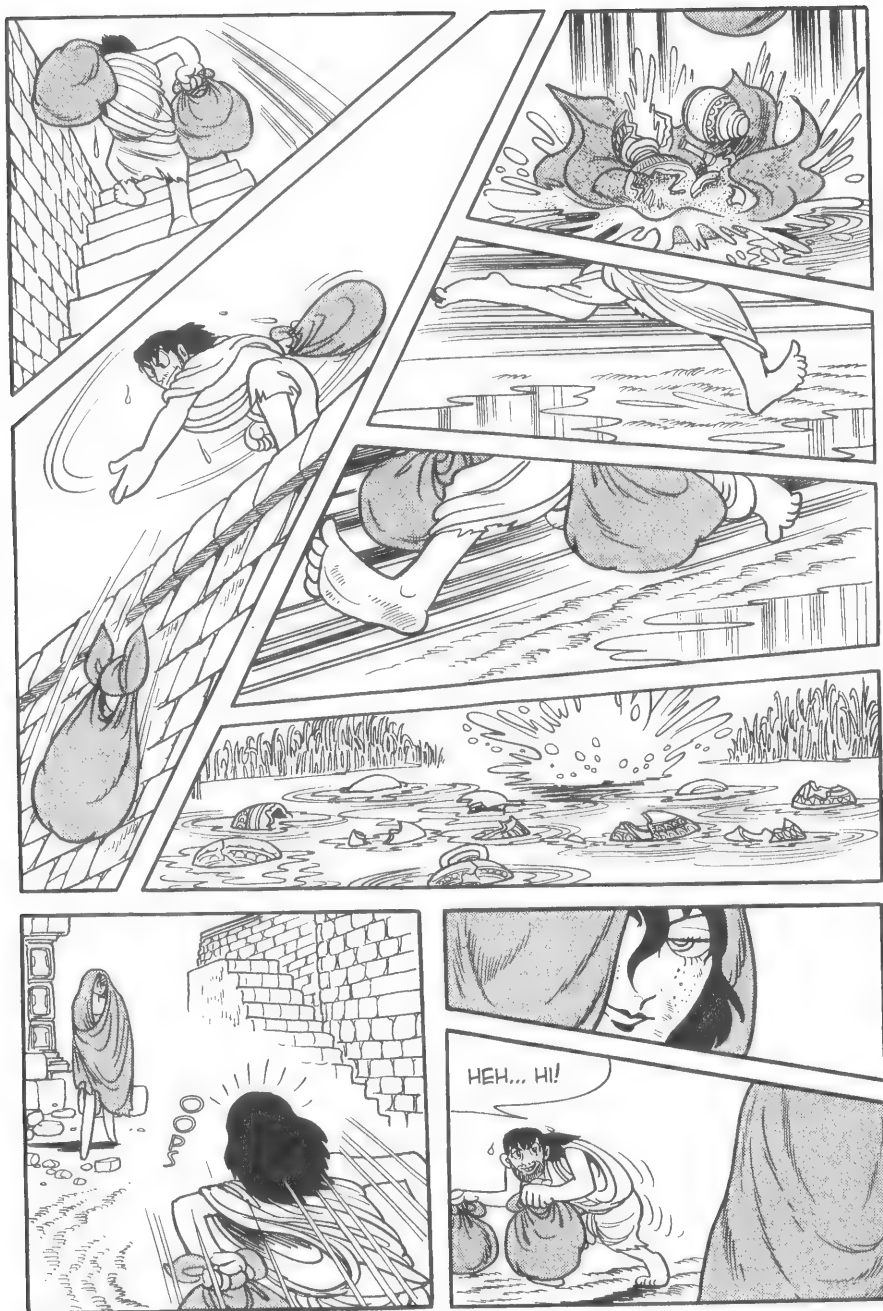
CHAPTER FOUR

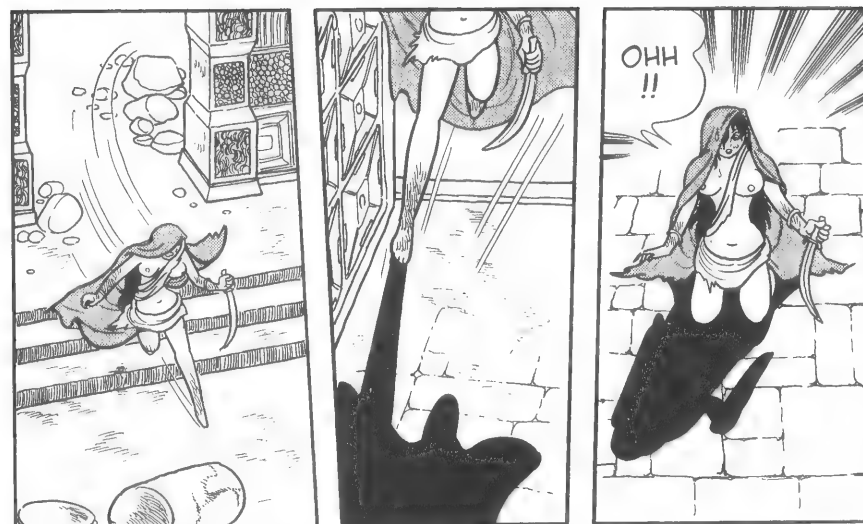
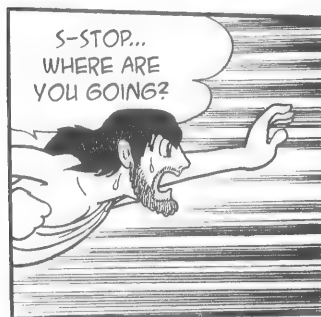
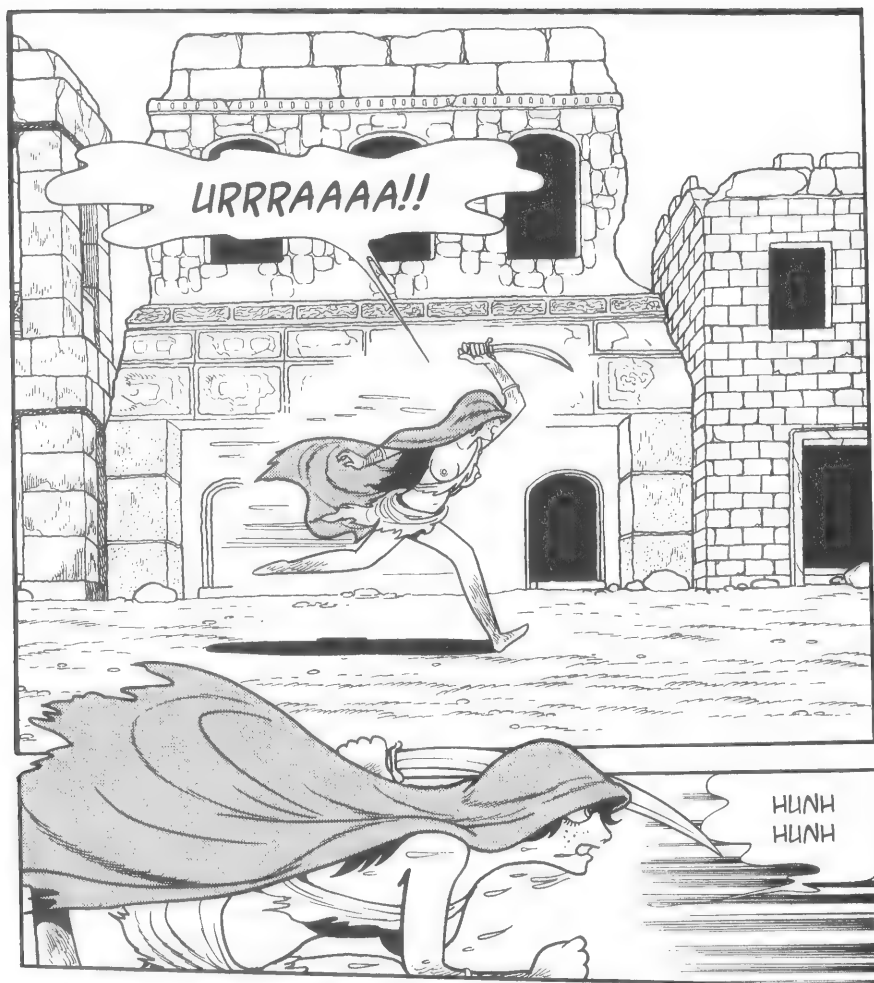
MADWOMAN VISAKHA

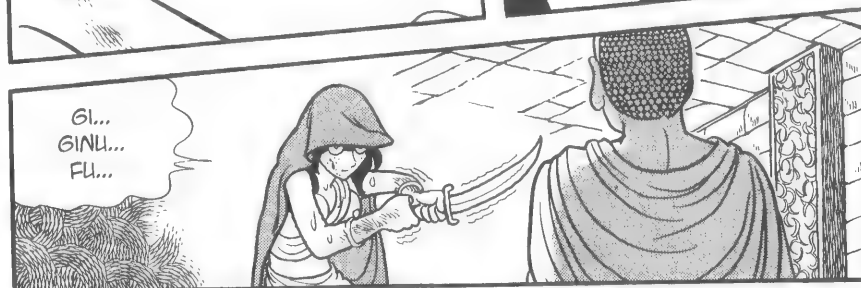
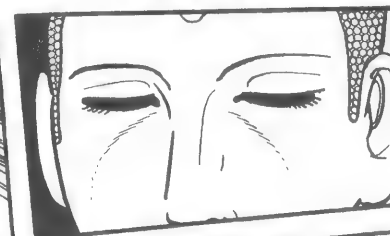
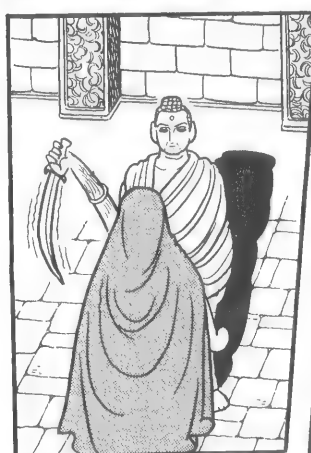
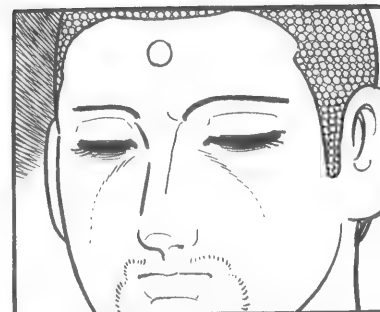
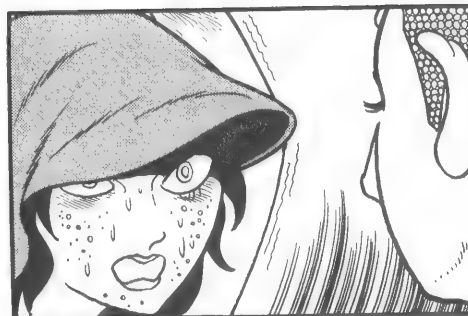
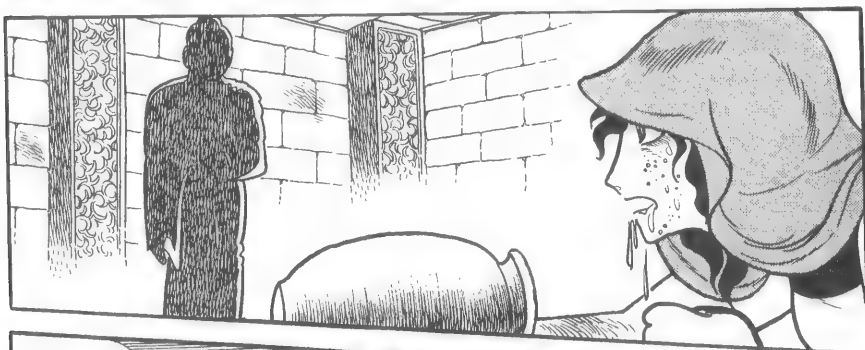
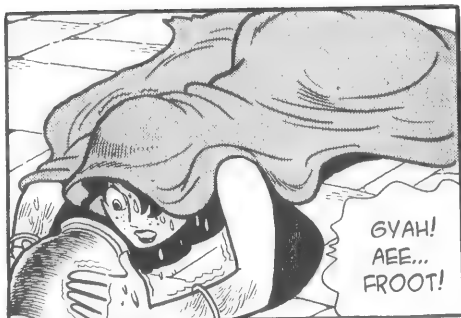


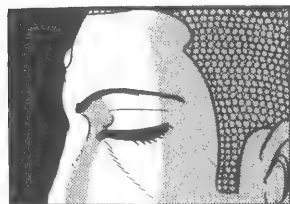




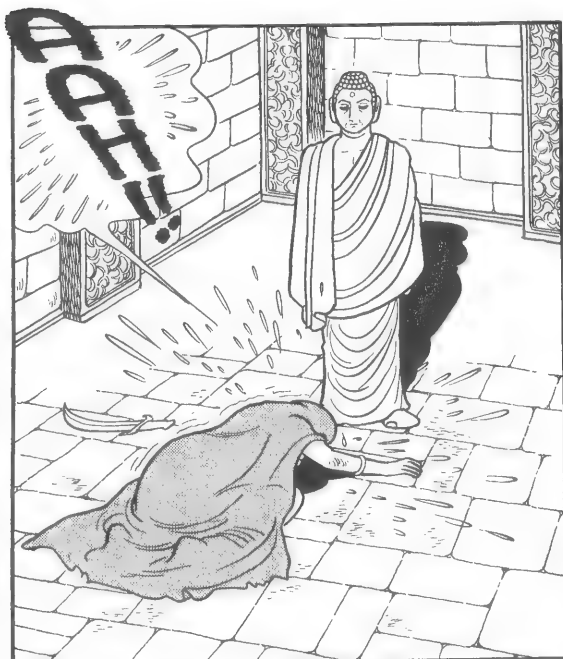








WH...O
OH, OH...
UHH...



BUDDHA,
ARE YOU
HURT?



I'M
FINE

I'LL
CHASE
HER
OUT!

LEAVE
HER
ALONE.



WHY
?

I CAN
SAVE HER.
SHE'S NOT
ENTIRELY
GONE.



A TINY FISTFUL
OF SANITY
KEPT HER FROM
KILLING ME.



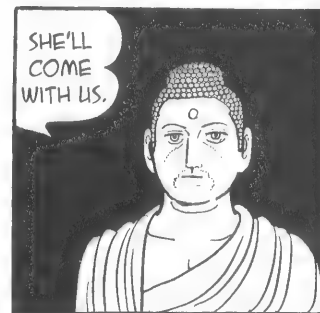
THERE'S
NO WAY
SHE'LL BE
CURED...

SHE'S
JUST ILL.
HER
MIND IS.

WITH
AN ILLNESS
OF THE MIND,
YOU MUST
FIND
THE CAUSE,
AND THEN
REMOVE IT.
THAT TENDS
TO BE
THE CURE.



FINE, BUT
HOW LONG
DO WE
WANNA
STAY
HERE?



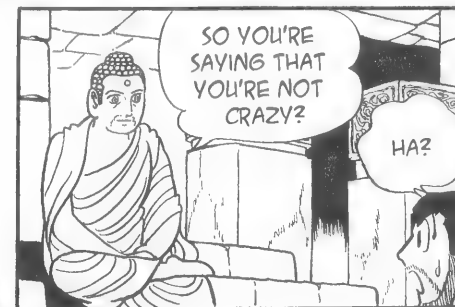
SHE'LL
COME
WITH US.



WHA
WHA
WHAT
?!

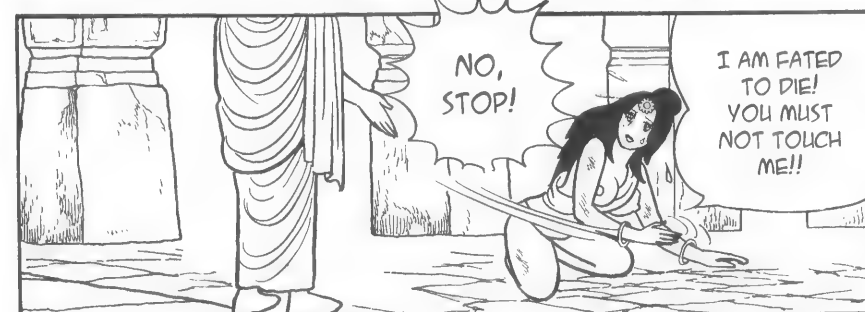
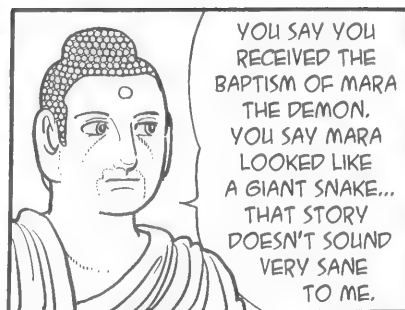
BUT
BUT

I
DON'T
TRAVEL
WITH
CRAZIES
!



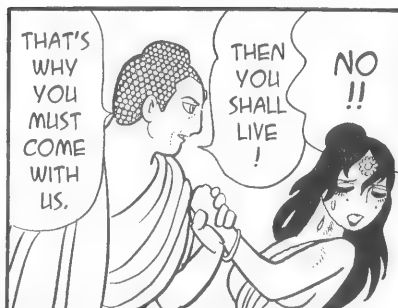
SO YOU'RE
SAVING THAT
YOU'RE NOT
CRAZY?

HA?





YES, YOU
WILL DIE.
IF YOU
STAY
HERE.



THAT'S
WHY
YOU
MUST
COME
WITH
US.

THEN
YOU
SHALL
LIVE!

NO
!!



YOU MUST
COME
WITH ME,
VISAKHA!

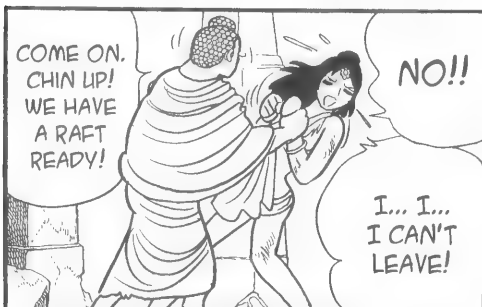


WHO
ARE
YOU?
WHY
DO YOU
CALL ME
VISAKHA?



BECAUSE
I BELIEVE
THAT IS
YOUR
NAME.

VISAKHA? I KNOW
I'VE HEARD
THAT NAME BEFORE.
BUT IT'S NOT MINE...
MY NAME IS...
I FORGOT
MY NAME.



COME ON.
CHIN UP!
WE HAVE
A RAFT
READY!

NO!!

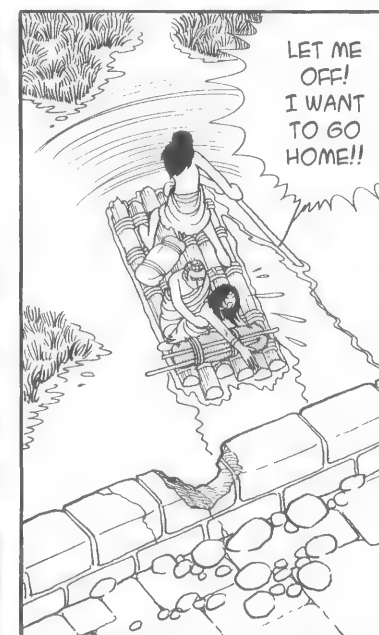
I... I...
I CAN'T
LEAVE!



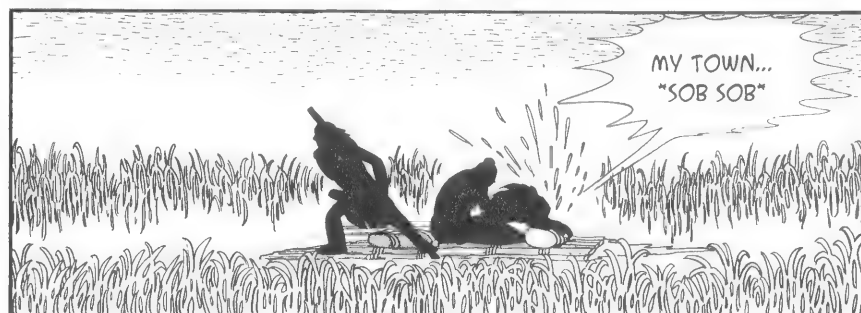
VISAKHA,
YOU
MUST
!!



NO! NO!!
I'M NOT
GOING! LET
GO OF ME!
PLEASE!!
LET GO
OF ME!!



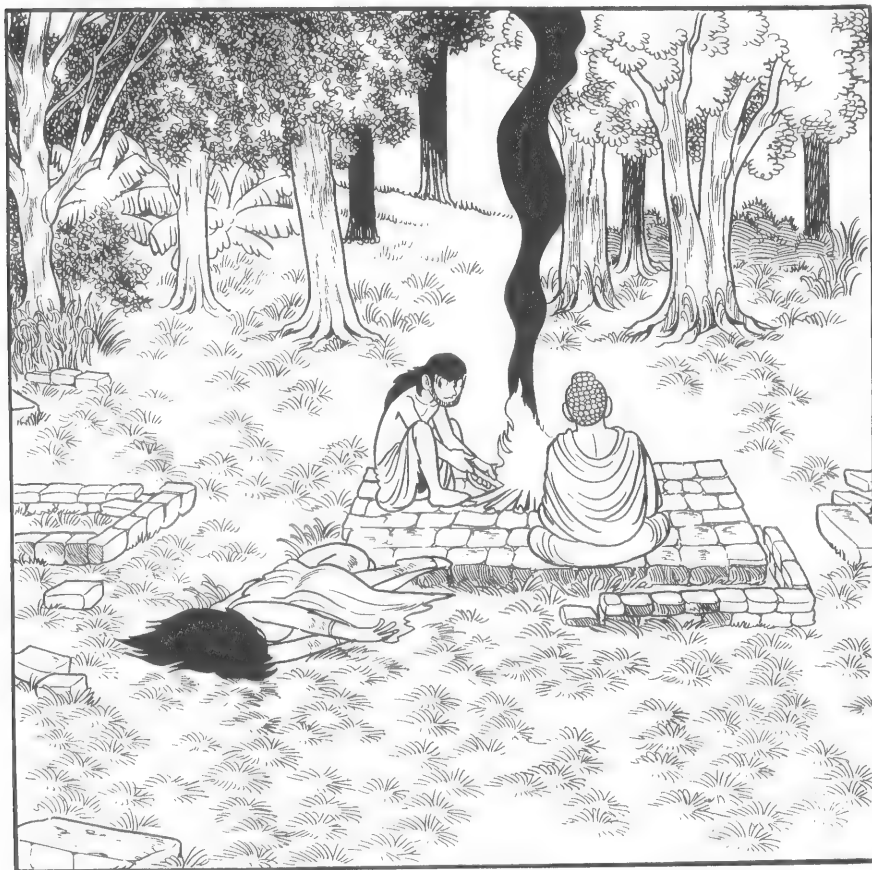
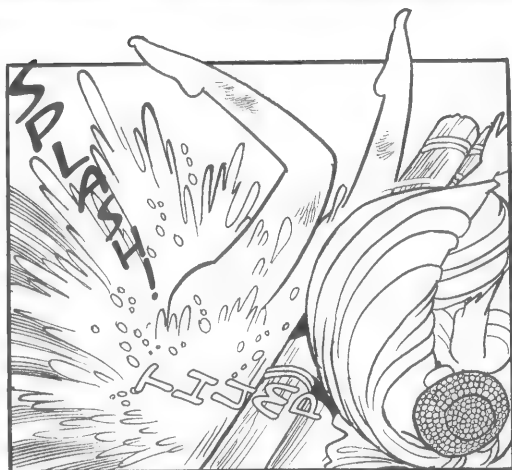
LET ME
OFF!
I WANT
TO GO
HOME!!



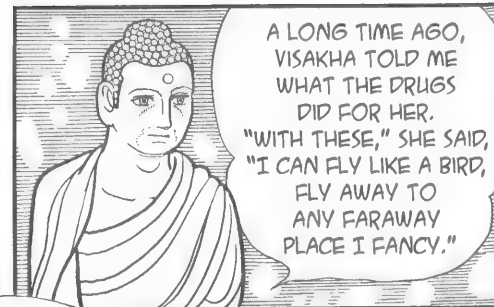
MY TOWN...
"SOB SOB"



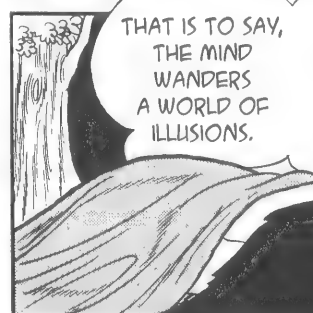




HOW
DID YOU
KNOW
THERE
WAS NO
NEED TO
WORRY?



A LONG TIME AGO,
VISAKHA TOLD ME
WHAT THE DRUGS
DID FOR HER.
"WITH THESE," SHE SAID,
"I CAN FLY LIKE A BIRD,
FLY AWAY TO
ANY FARAWAY
PLACE I FANCY."

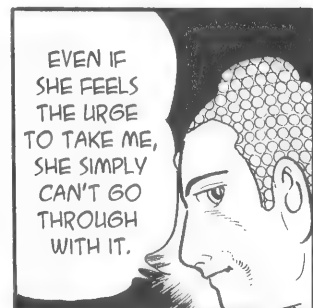


THAT IS TO SAY,
THE MIND
WANDERS
A WORLD OF
ILLUSIONS.

BUT
OF COURSE,
THE BODY
STAYS.
IN FACT
IT IS DULLED.



IT
ENTERS
A STATE
WHERE
IT FEELS,
BUT
CANNOT
DO.



EVEN IF
SHE FEELS
THE URGE
TO TAKE ME,
SHE SIMPLY
CAN'T GO
THROUGH
WITH IT.



WHAT
AWFUL
STUFF
!!



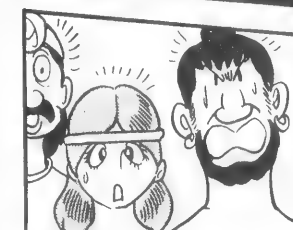
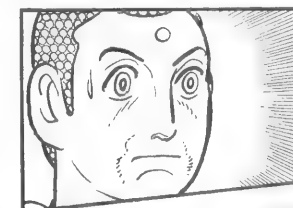
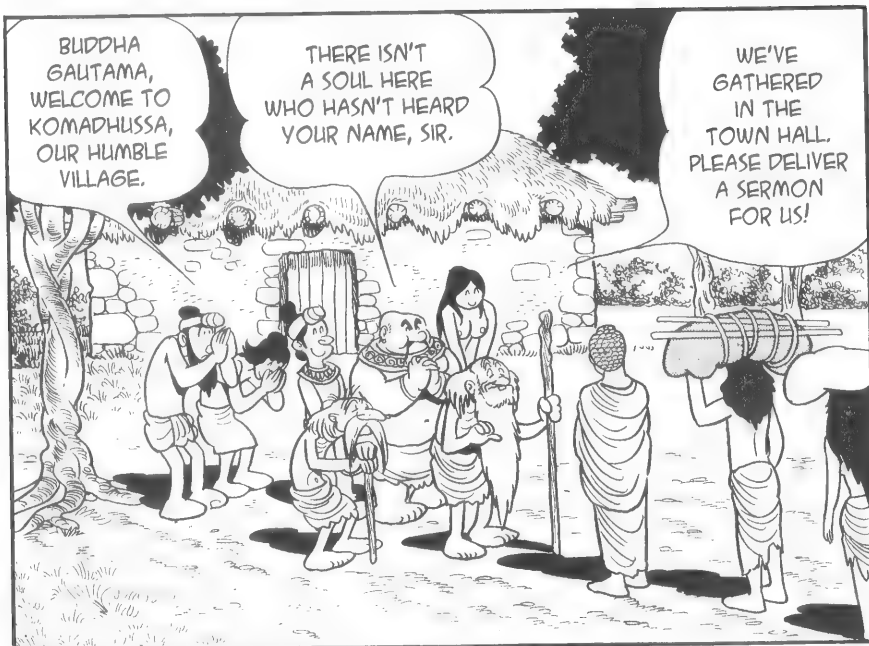
ARE WE
BRINGING HER
ALONG FOR
THE WHOLE
JOURNEY?



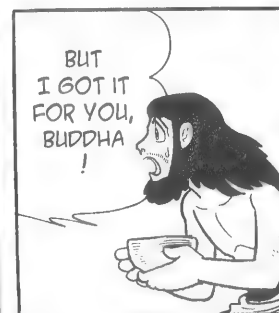
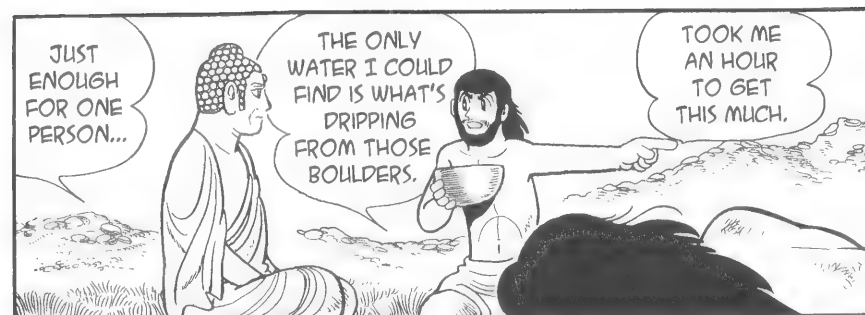
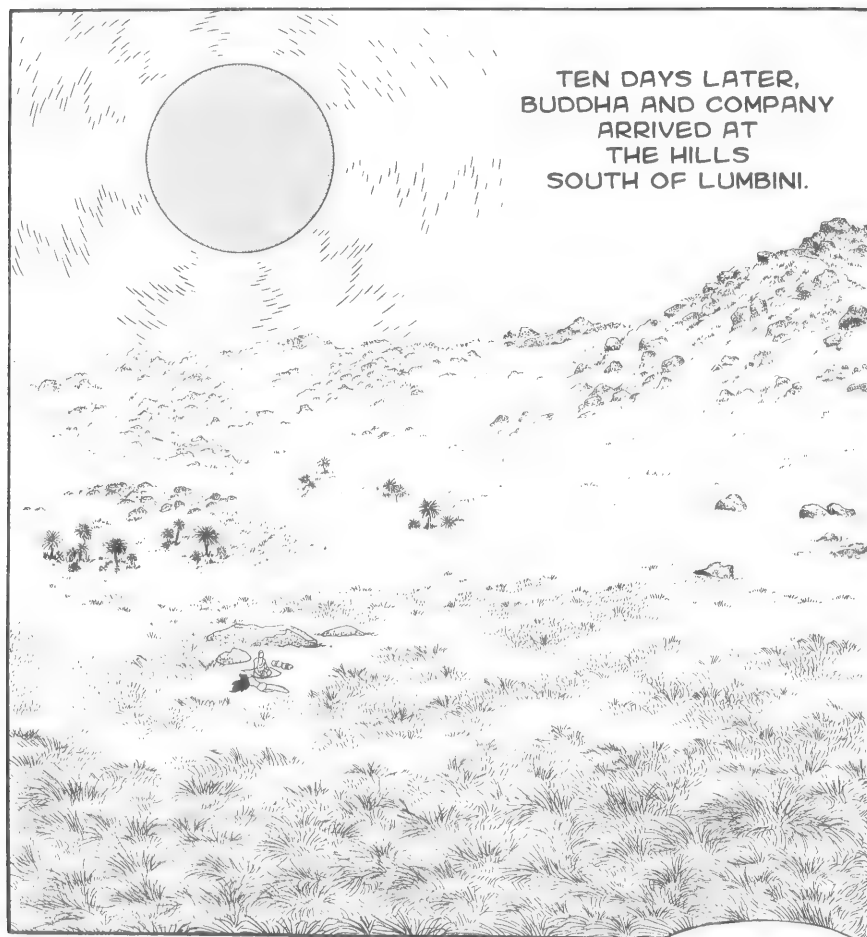
I'D LIKE
TO...

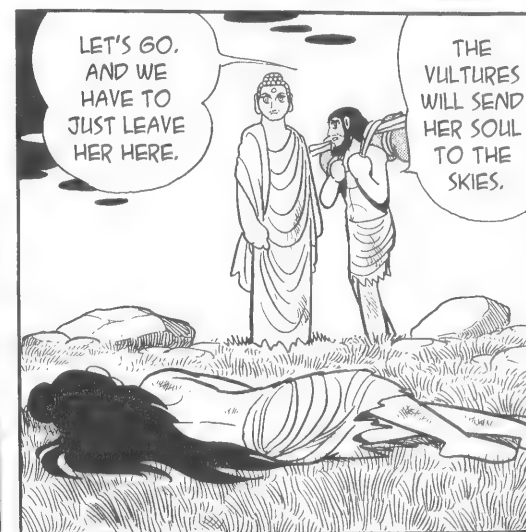
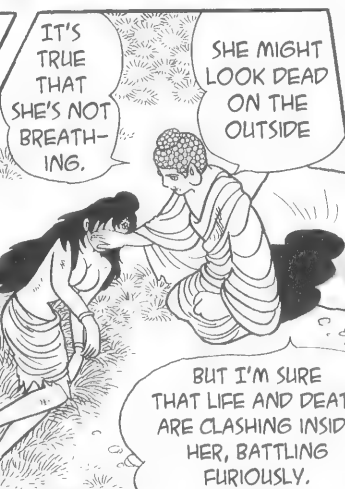
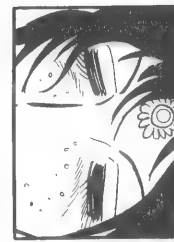
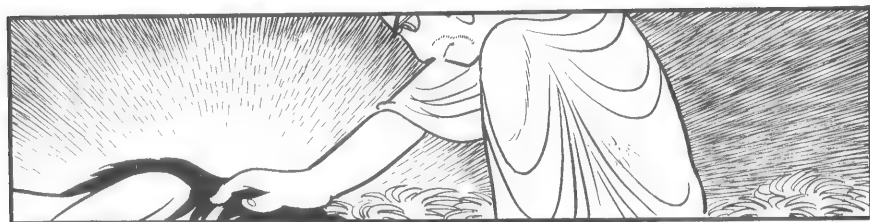


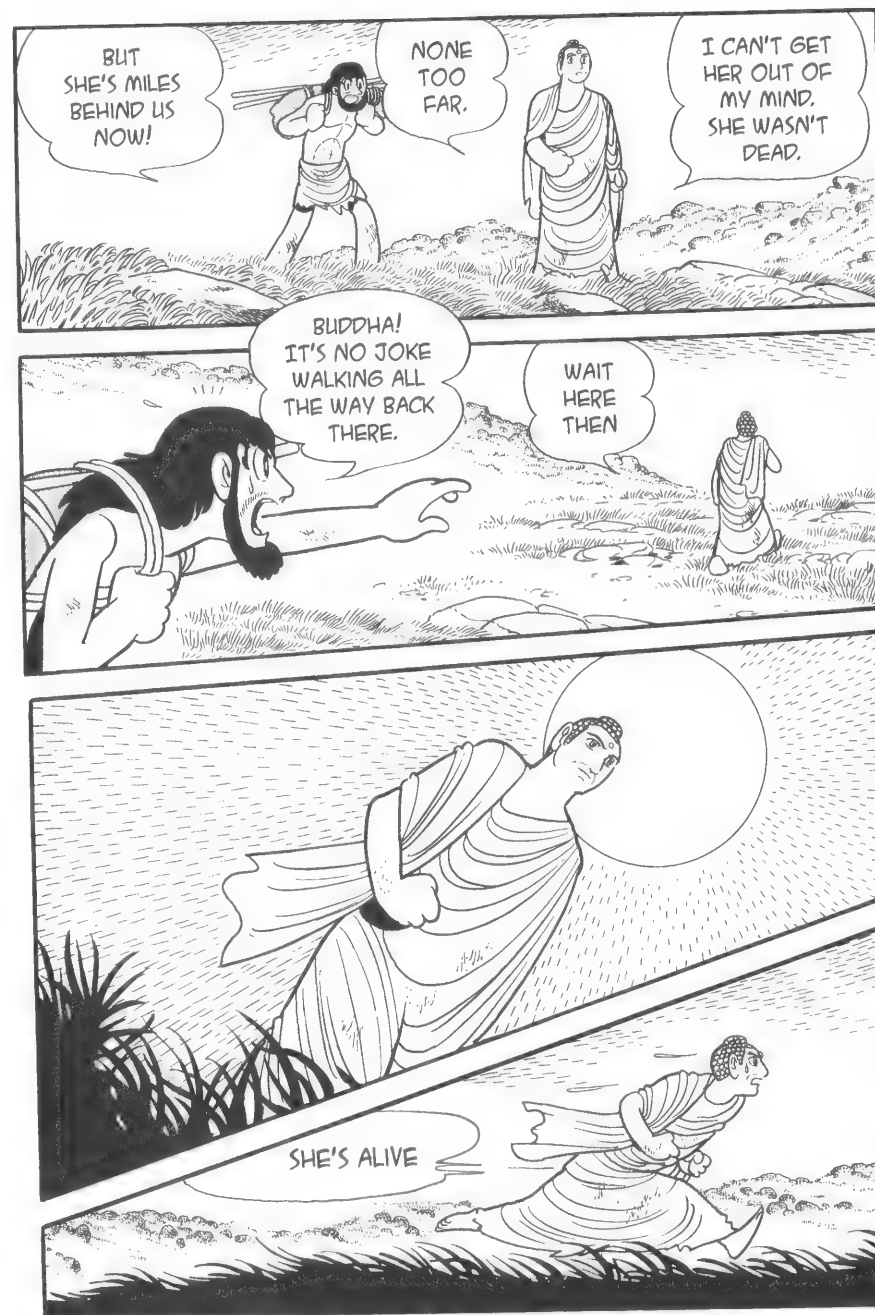
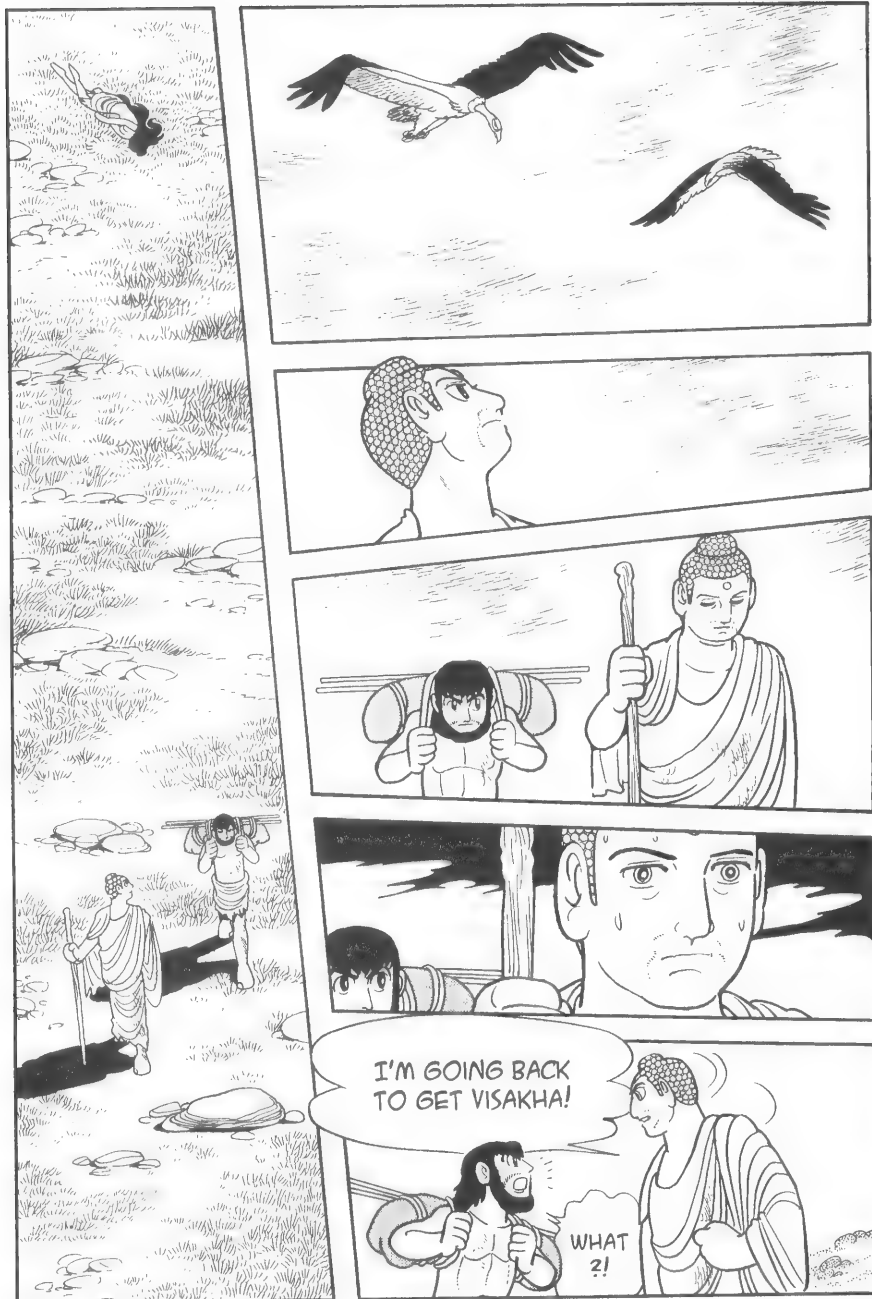
WE'LL
LOOK AFTER
HER
UNTIL SHE
RECOVERS.







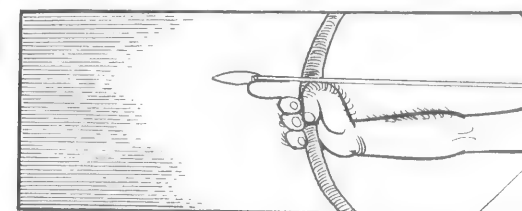
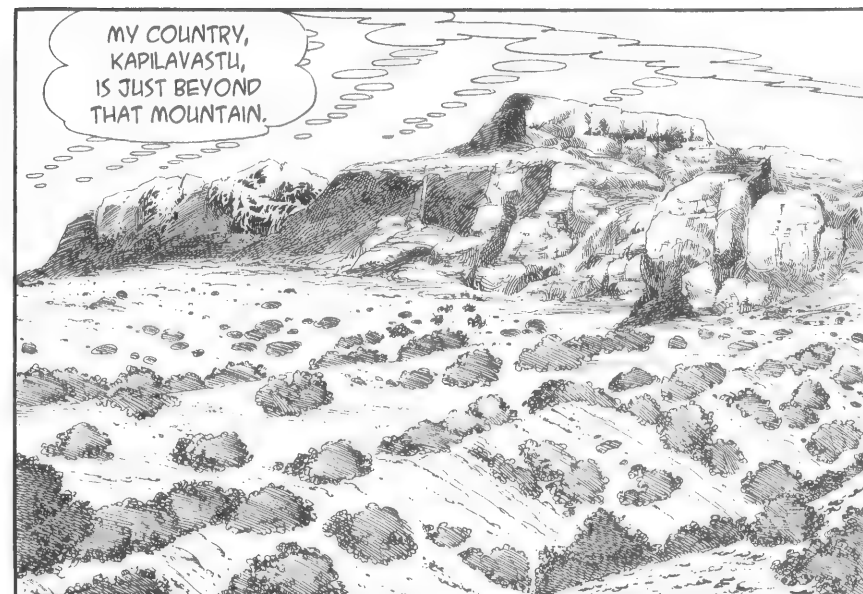
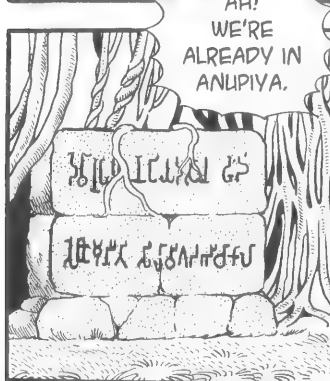
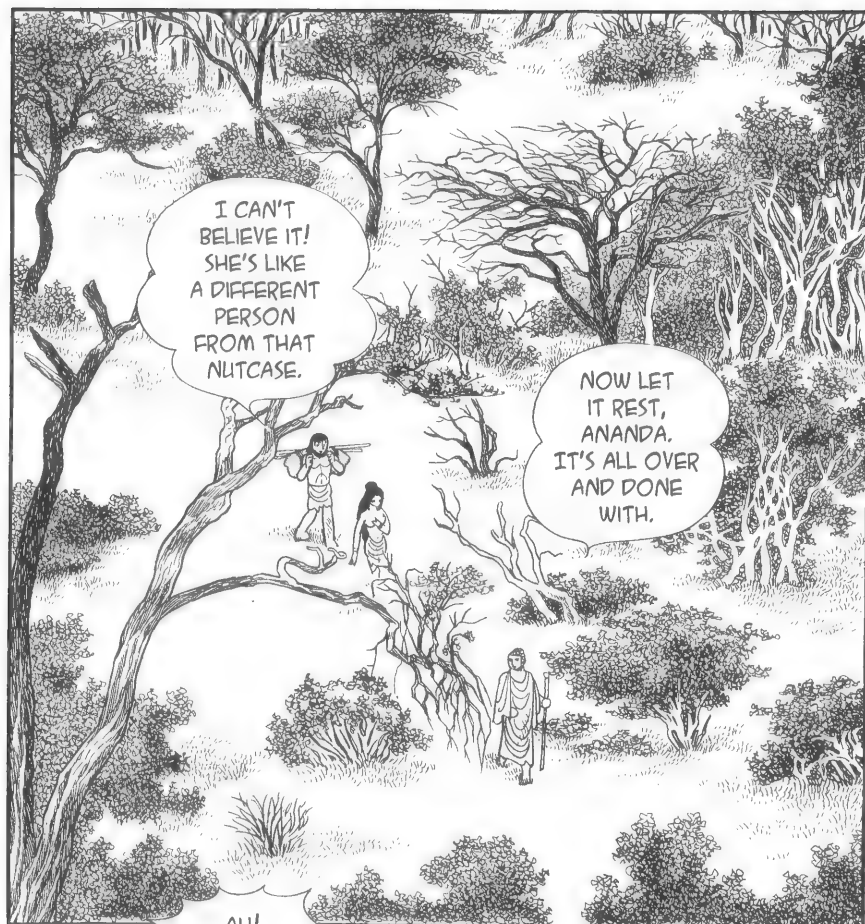






CHAPTER FIVE

ENCOUNTER WITH PRINCE CRYSTAL





WHAT THE...!



HANG IN THERE!

UNH!

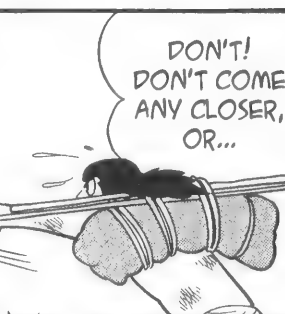


WHO ?!



ONCE HE'S DEAD AND GONE

YOU'LL SNAP OUT OF YOUR STUPOR AND JOIN ME AGAIN.



DON'T! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER, OR...



YOUR OLD PAL AHIMSA, ALSO KNOWN AS ANGULIMALA.

AHIMSA! YOU'VE BEEN PROWLING AFTER BUDDHA THIS WHOLE TIME?



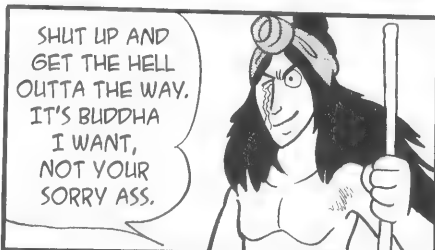
YEAH, I HAVE. BUT I'M GETTING TIRED OF THIS GAME.



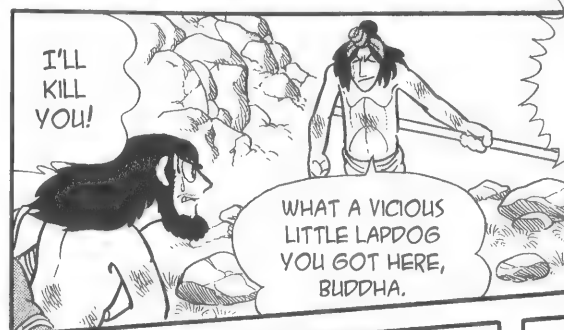
LET ME KILL HIM AND GET IT OVER WITH.



LAY A FINGER ON BUDDHA, AND I'LL MAKE YOU REGRET IT FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!



SHUT UP AND GET THE HELL OUTTA THE WAY. IT'S BUDDHA I WANT, NOT YOUR SORRY ASS.



I'LL KILL YOU!

WHAT A VICIOUS LITTLE LAPDOG YOU GOT HERE, BUDDHA.



STOP THIS !!



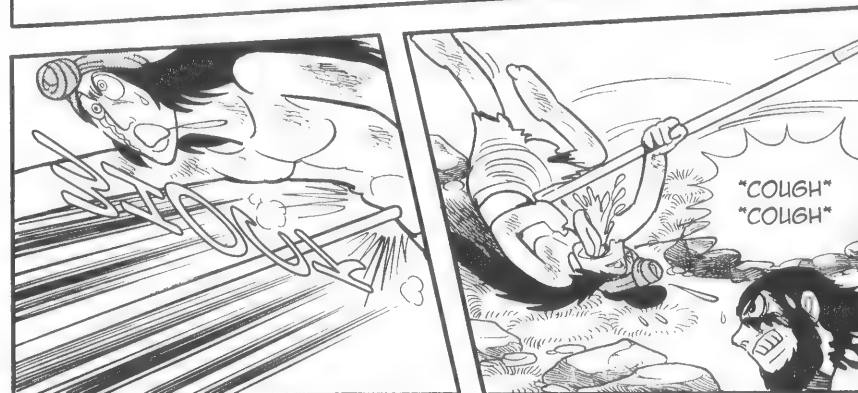
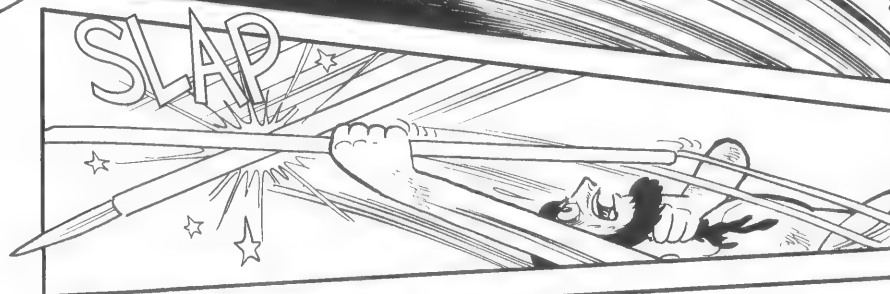
IN THE END, MAYBE YOU AND I WERE MEANT TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH. FINE, NO TIME LIKE NOW.

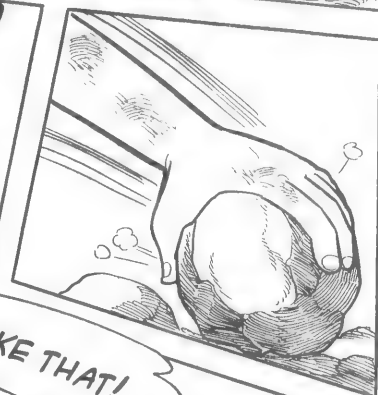
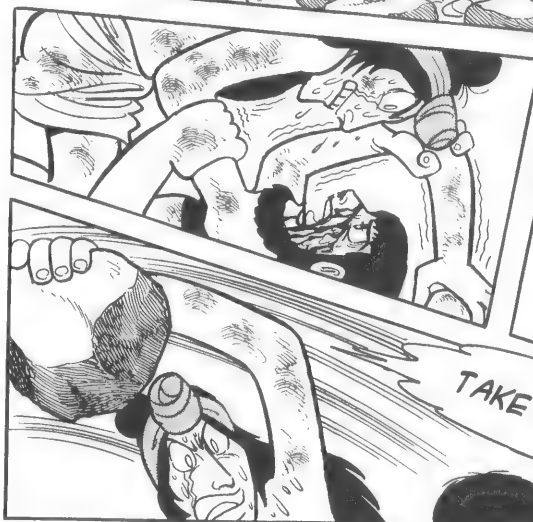
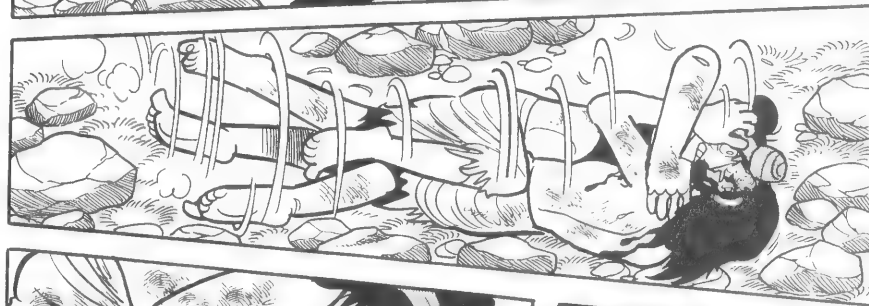
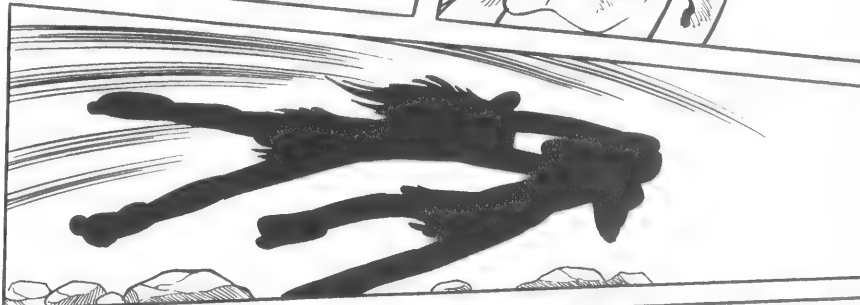
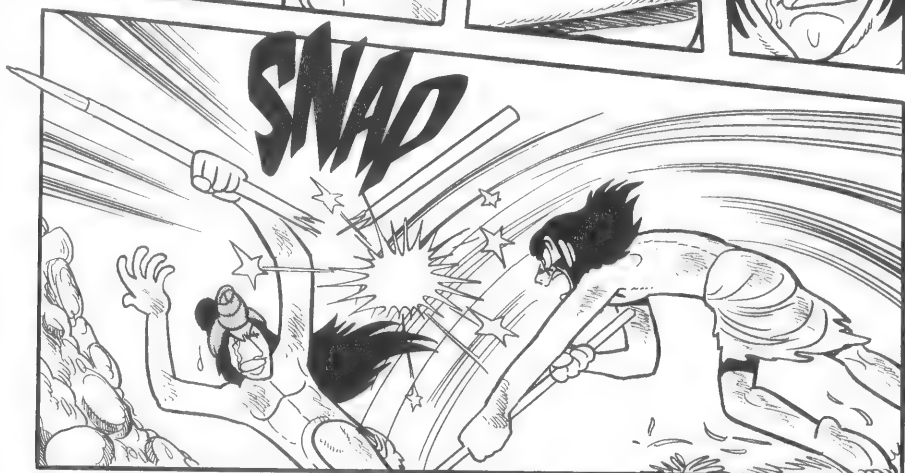


ANANDA, I HAVE DONE MY UTMOST TO AVOID FIGHTING WITH THIS MAN.

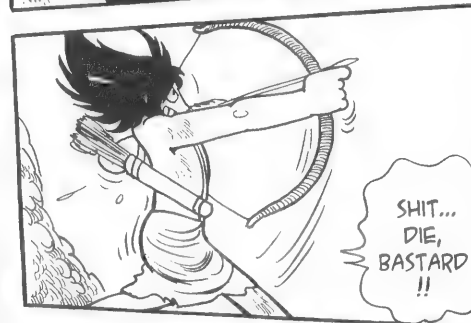
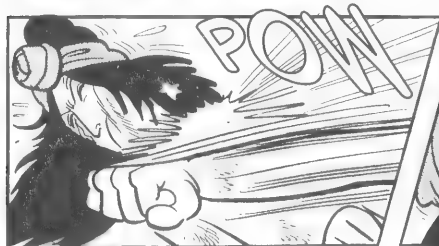
DO YOU WANT TO RUIN ALL MY EFFORTS ?

BUDDHA, FORGIVE ME THIS ONE DEED !





TAKE THAT!







CAN YOU
MOVE
?

GET THIS
OUTTA
THE WAY
!



HE CAN BARELY
STICK OUT
ONE ARM.

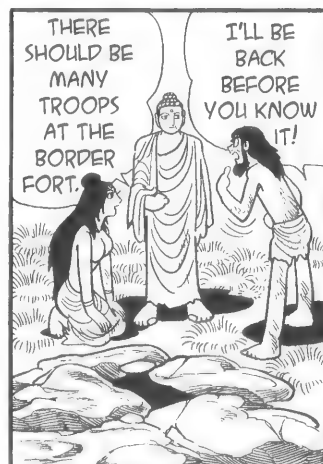


CAN WE
DIG HIM
OUT?

NOT
UNLESS
WE
FIND
SOME
HELP.



I-I CAN'T
BREATHE!
THERE'S NO AIR
DOWN HERE
!!

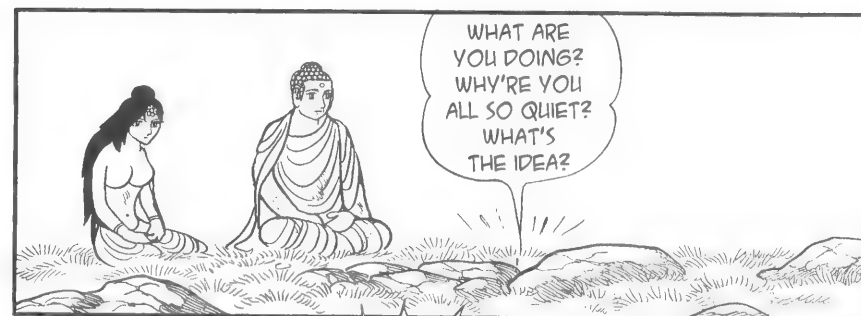


THERE
SHOULD BE
MANY
TROOPS
AT THE
BORDER
FORT.

I'LL BE
BACK
BEFORE
YOU KNOW
IT!



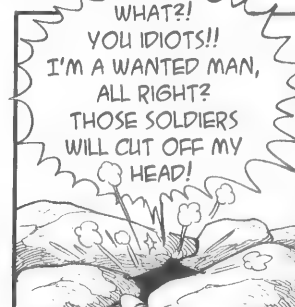
GO.



WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?
WHY'RE YOU
ALL SO QUIET?
WHAT'S
THE IDEA?



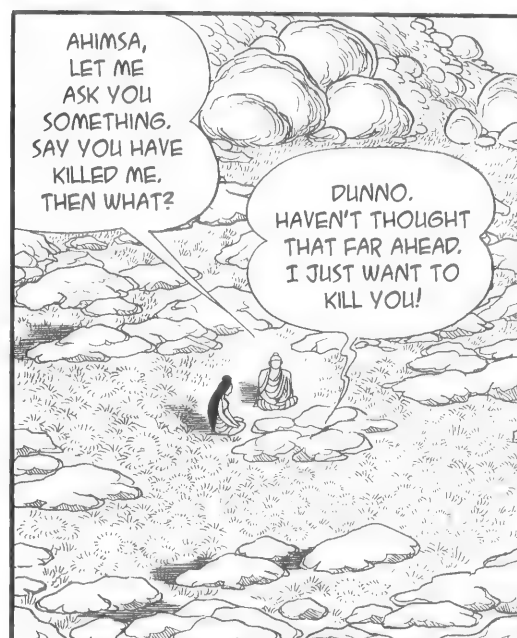
WE'VE
SENT FOR
HELP.
THE
ARMY
WILL BE
HERE.



WHAT?!
YOU IDIOTS!!
I'M A WANTED MAN,
ALL RIGHT?
THOSE SOLDIERS
WILL CUT OFF MY
HEAD!



I'LL ASK THEM
TO SPARE YOU.
I HAPPEN
TO KNOW
THE OFFICERS
AROUND HERE.

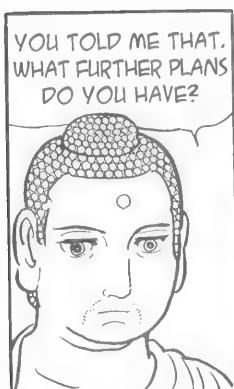


AHIMSA,
LET ME
ASK YOU
SOMETHING.
SAY YOU HAVE
KILLED ME.
THEN WHAT?

DUNNO.
HAVEN'T THOUGHT
THAT FAR AHEAD.
I JUST WANT TO
KILL YOU!



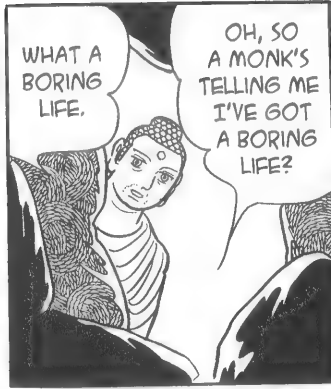
I SWORE
I'D KILL
THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
MONK!



YOU TOLD ME THAT.
WHAT FURTHER PLANS
DO YOU HAVE?

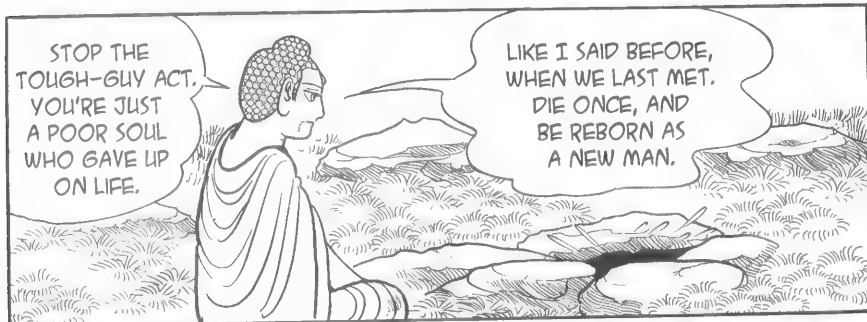


HA! I DON'T
HAVE ANY
FANCY PLANS!
KILLING YOU'S
MY GOAL!



WHAT A
BORING
LIFE.

OH, SO
A MONK'S
TELLING ME
I'VE GOT
A BORING
LIFE?



STOP THE
TOUGH-GUY ACT.
YOU'RE JUST
A POOR SOUL
WHO GAVE UP
ON LIFE.

LIKE I SAID BEFORE,
WHEN WE LAST MET.
DIE ONCE, AND
BE REBORN AS
A NEW MAN.



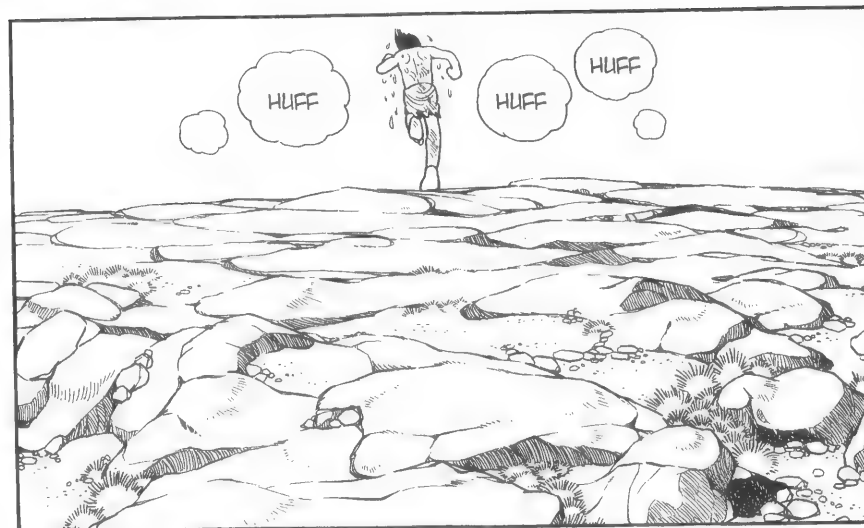
IF YOU
WISH,
I CAN
HELP
YOU.



SHUT UP!!
I'D RATHER DIE
HERE THAN
ASK FOR
YOUR DAMNED
HELP!



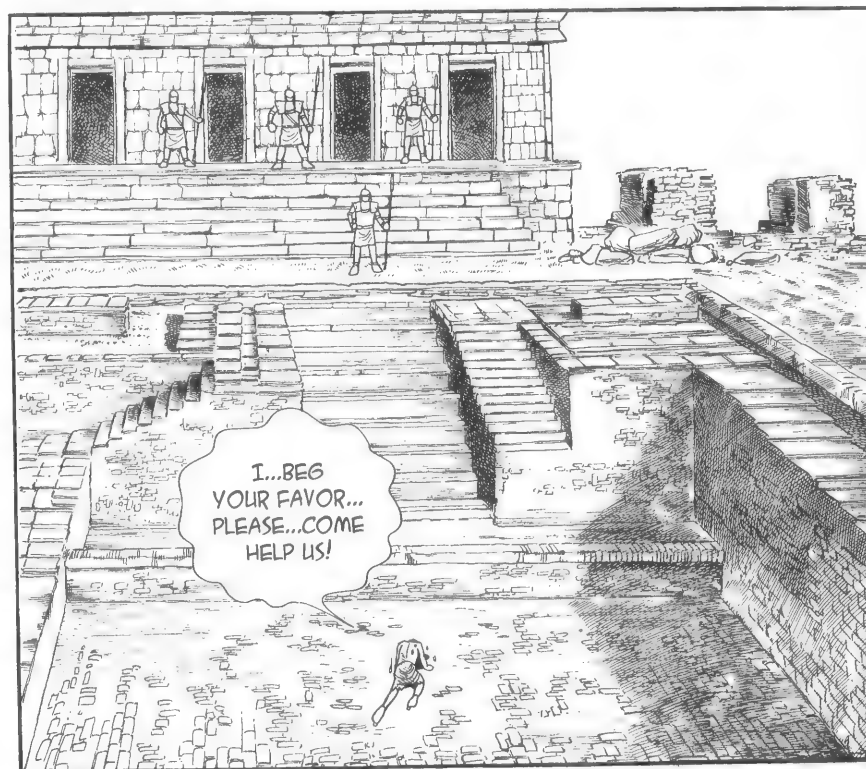
THEN WHY
DID YOU
CRY OUT
FOR HELP
?



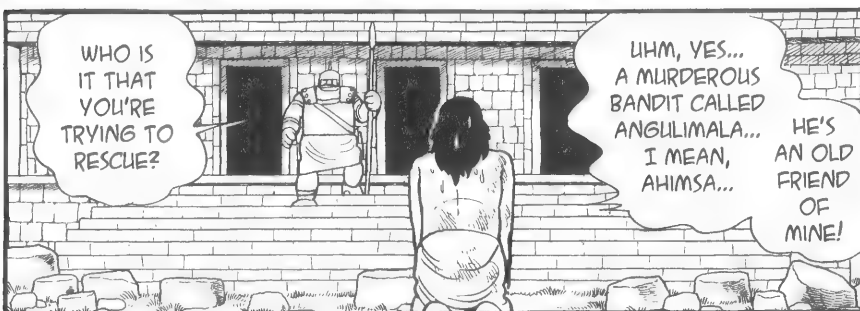
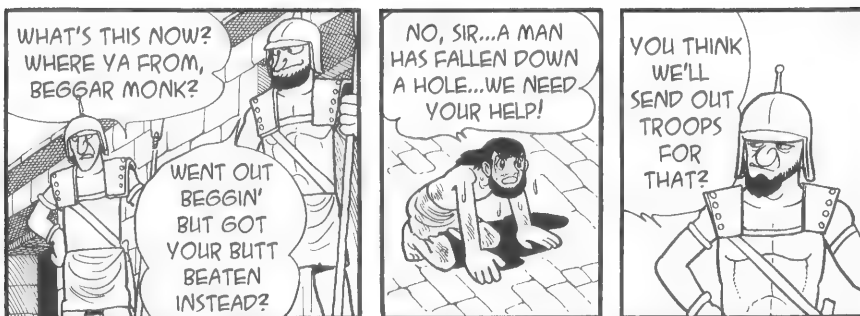
HUFF

HUFF

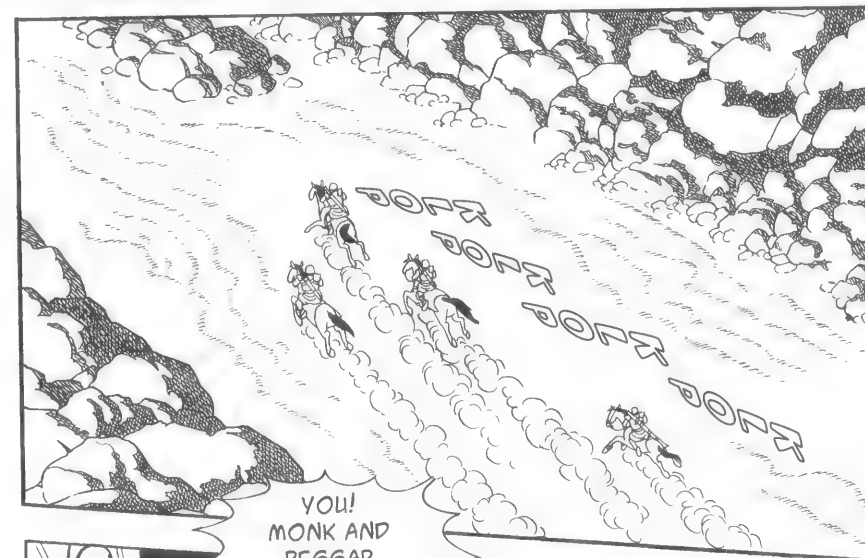
HUFF

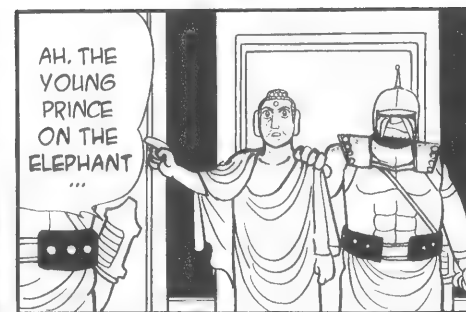
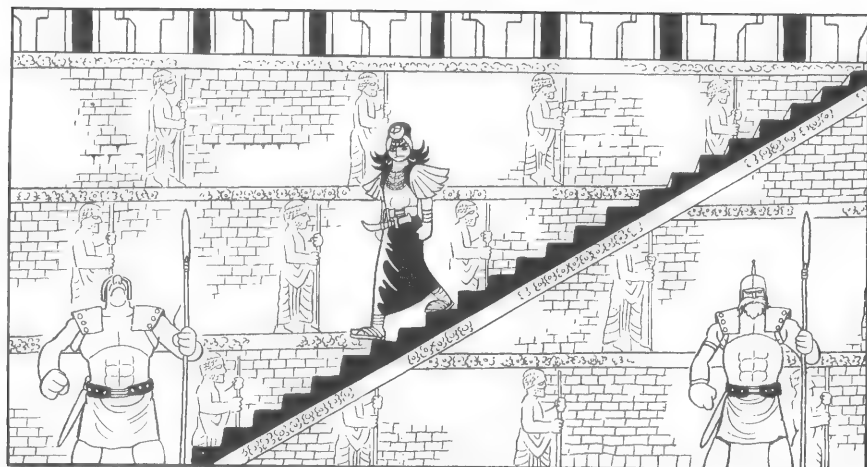


I...BEG
YOUR FAVOR...
PLEASE...COME
HELP US!

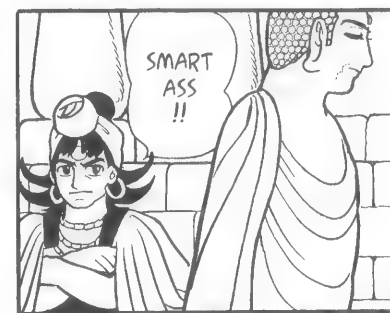


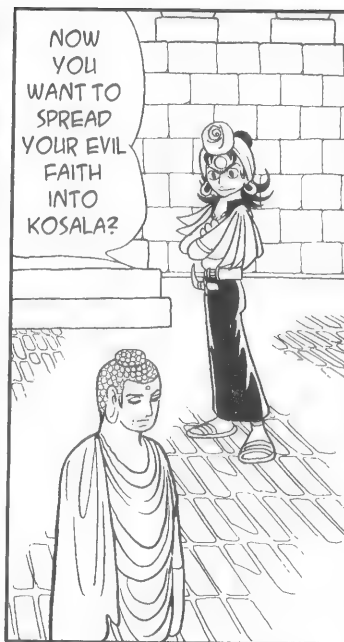
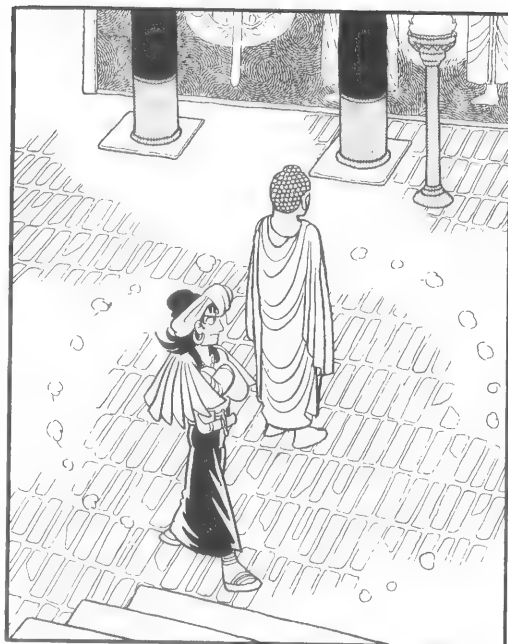


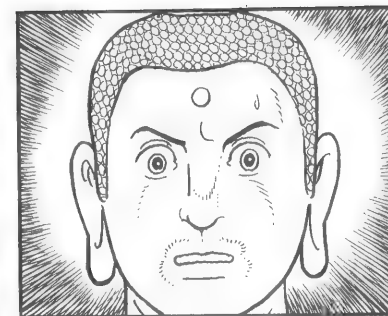
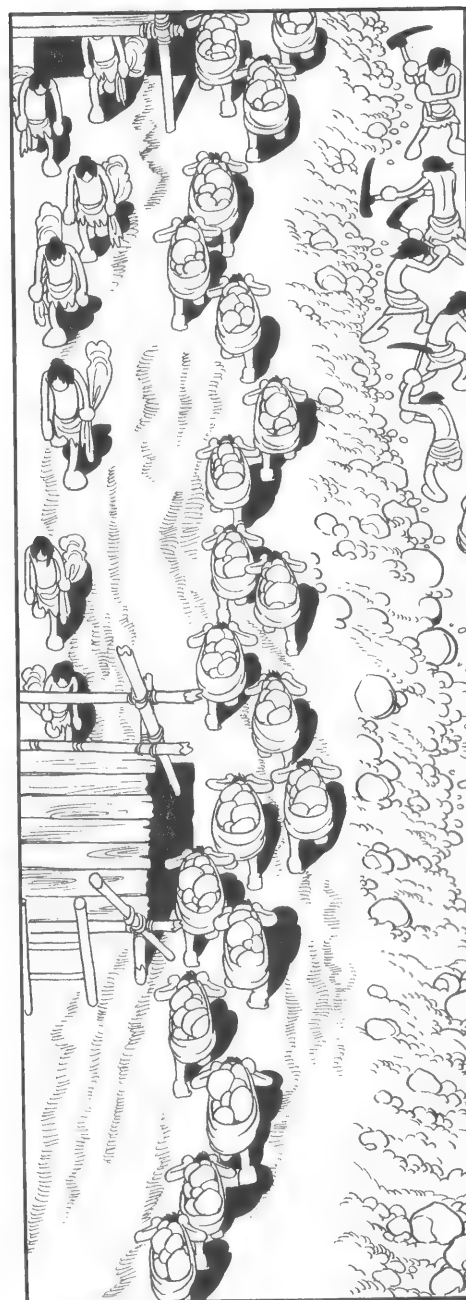
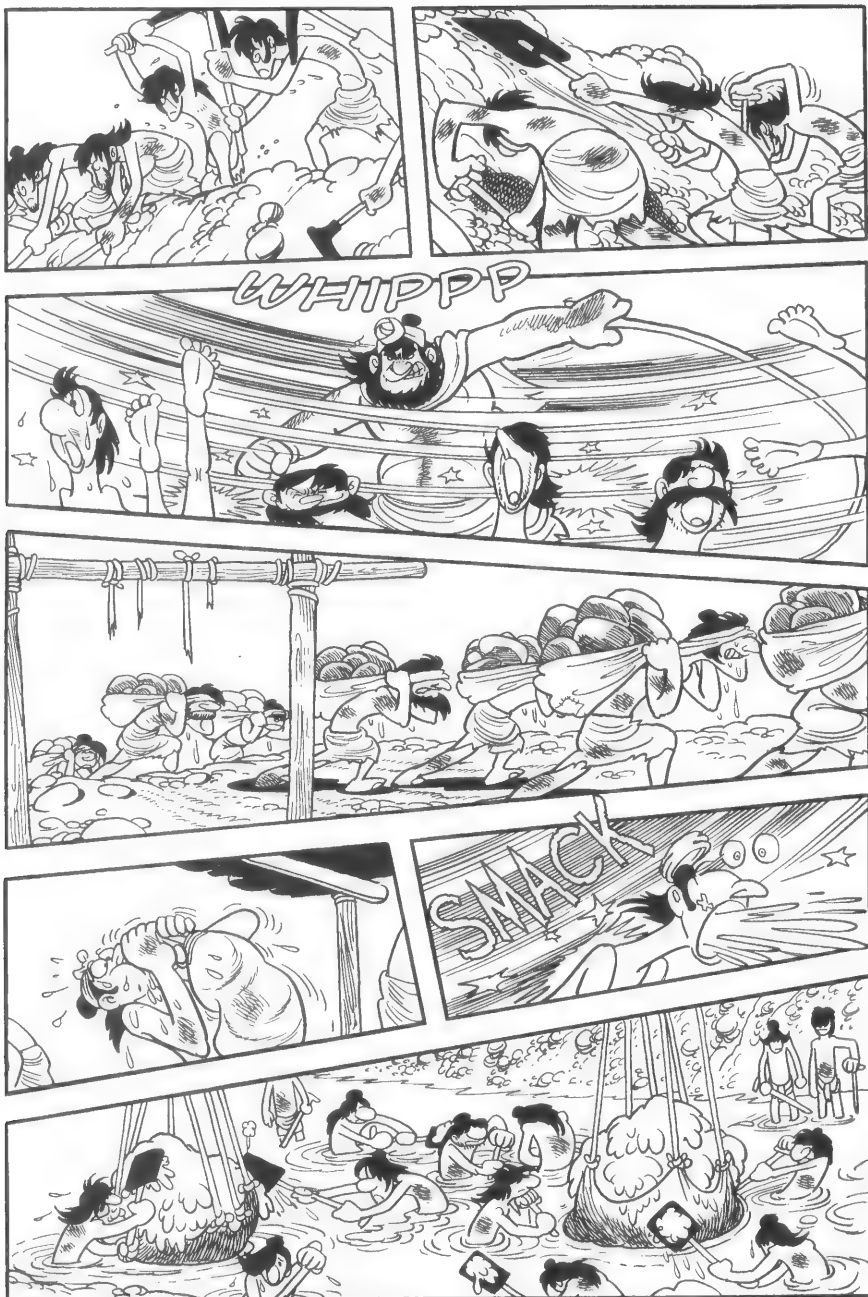


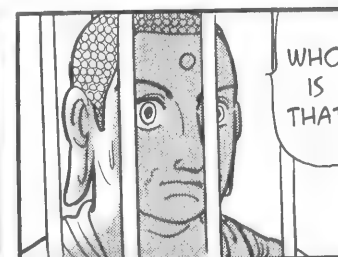
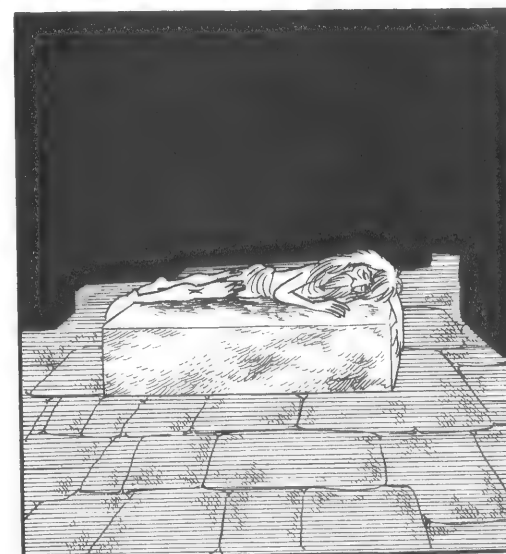
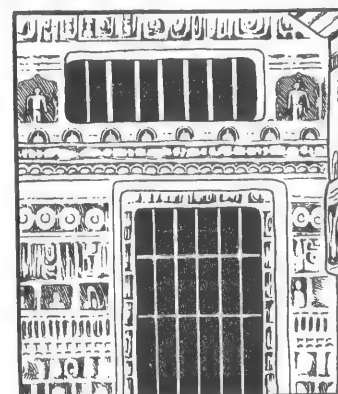
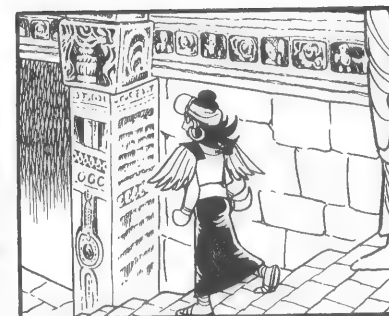
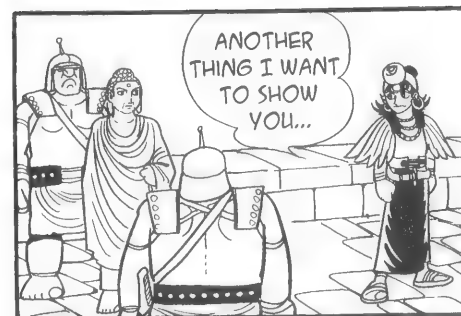
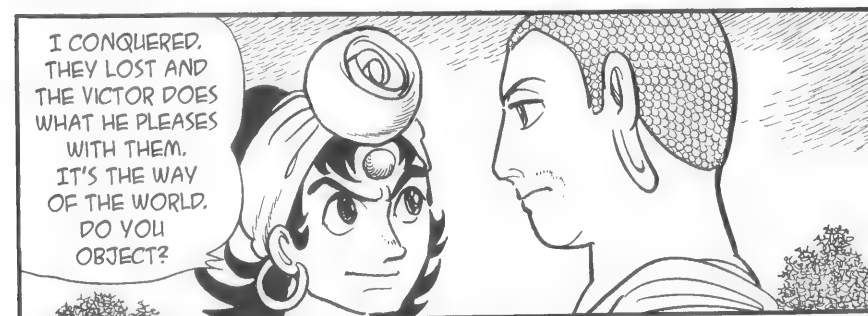
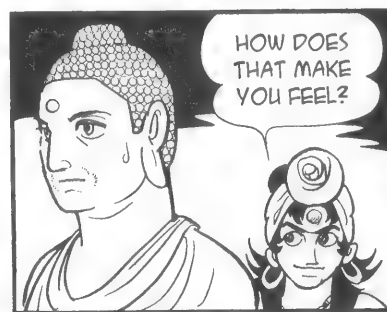
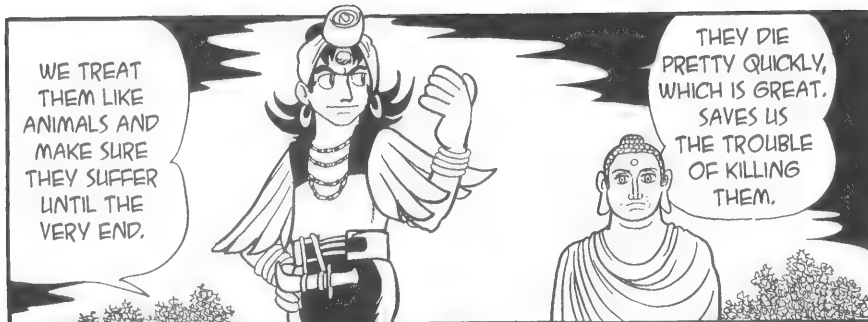


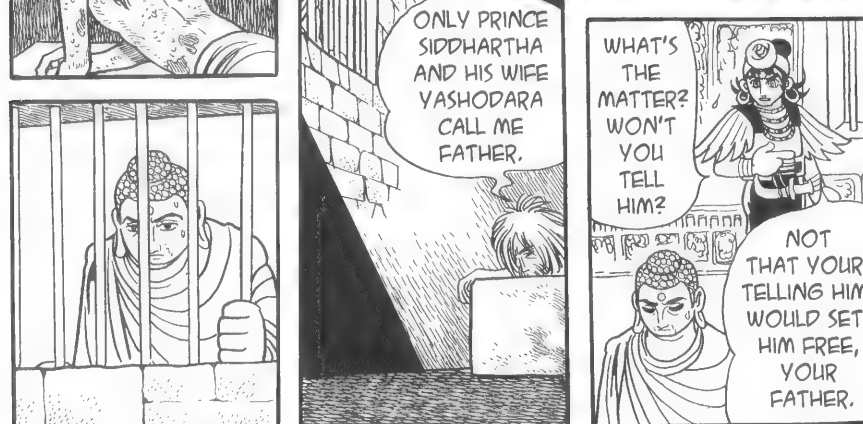
WITH OVER 1,000 DISCIPLES?

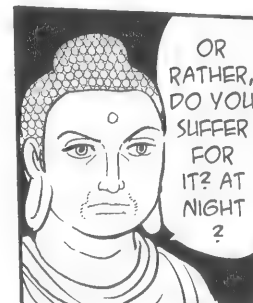
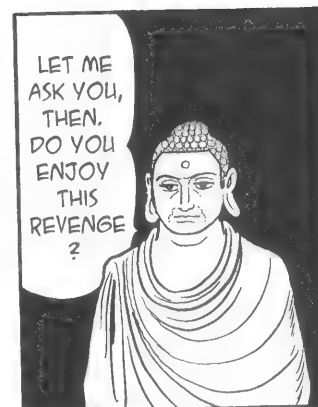
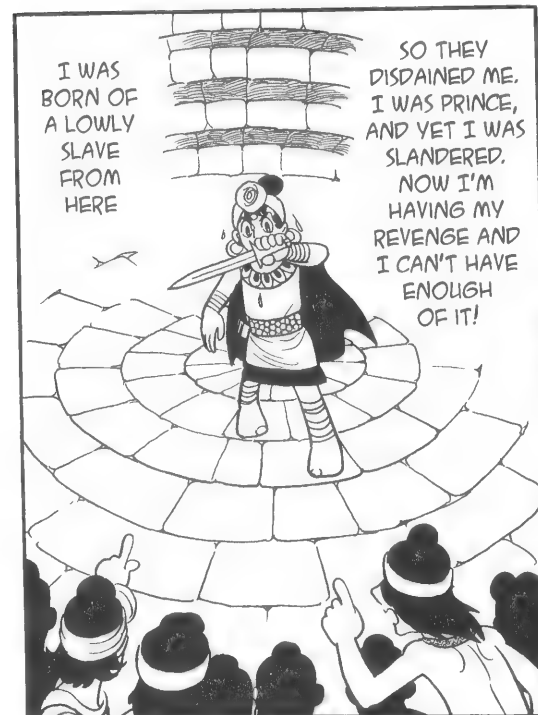
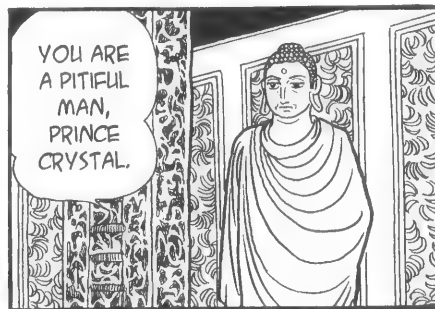


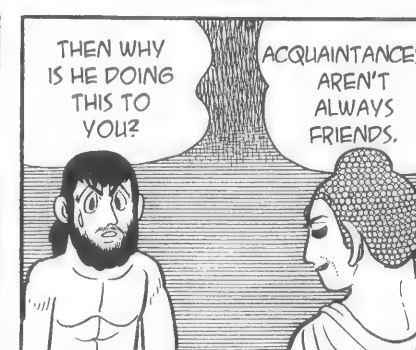
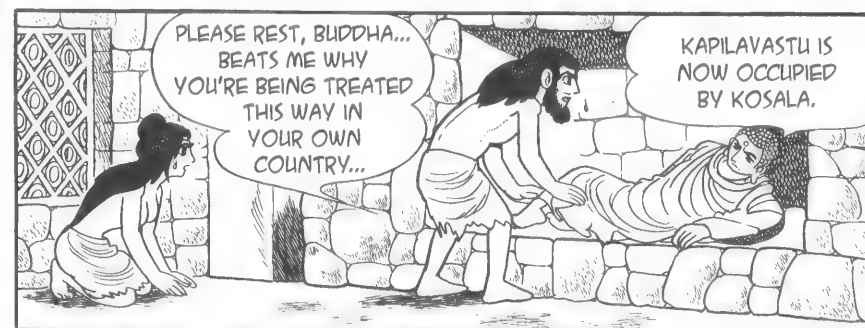


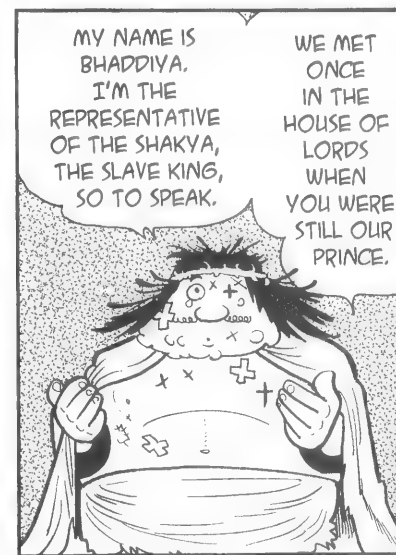
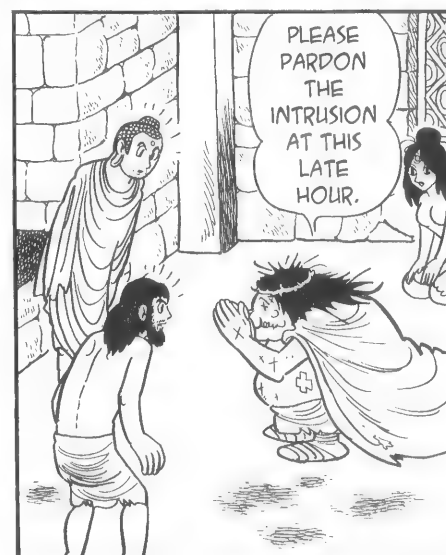
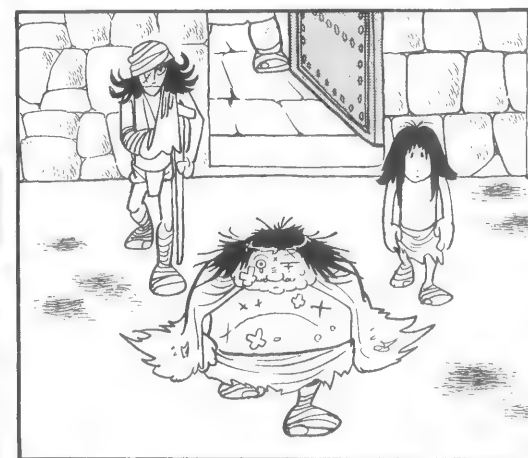
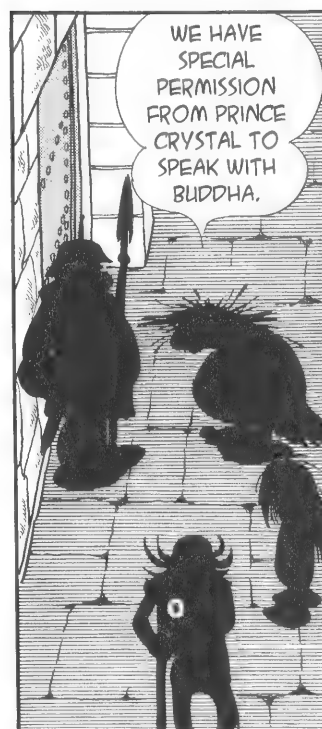
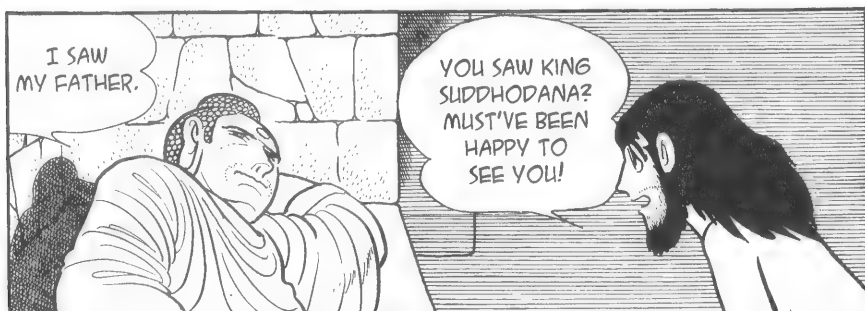
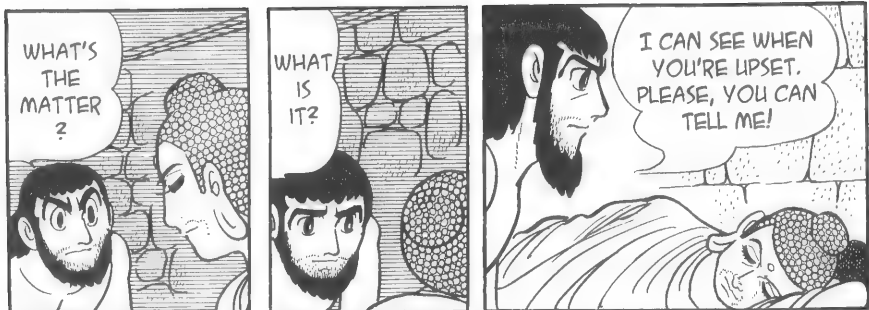


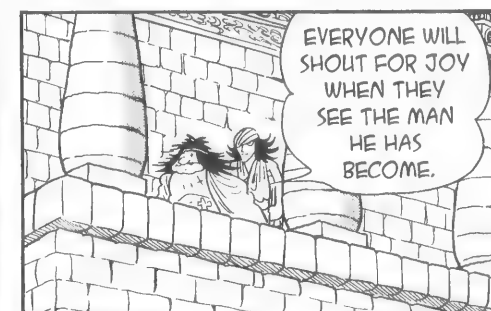
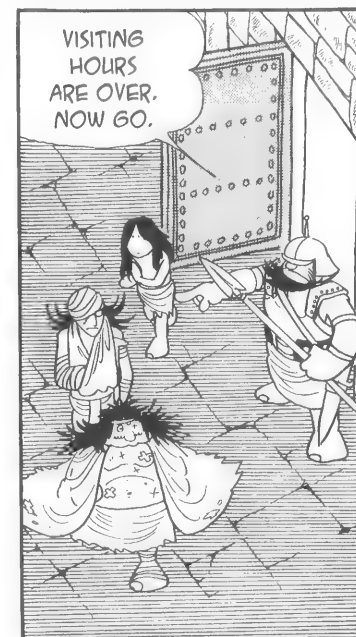
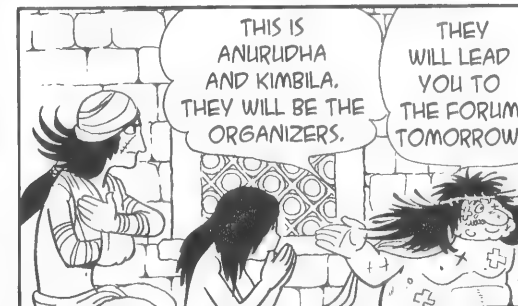
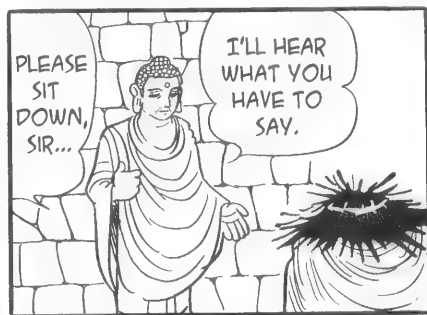


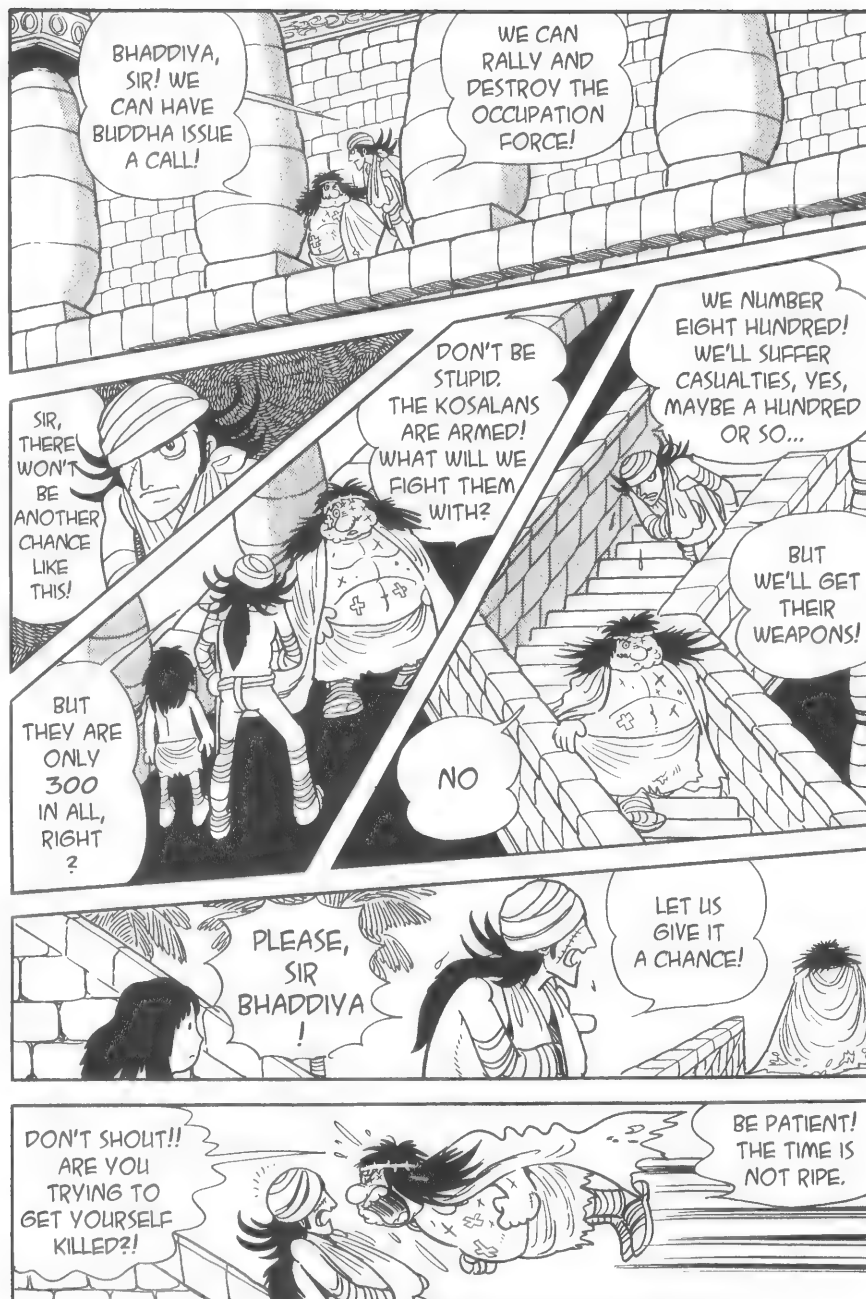


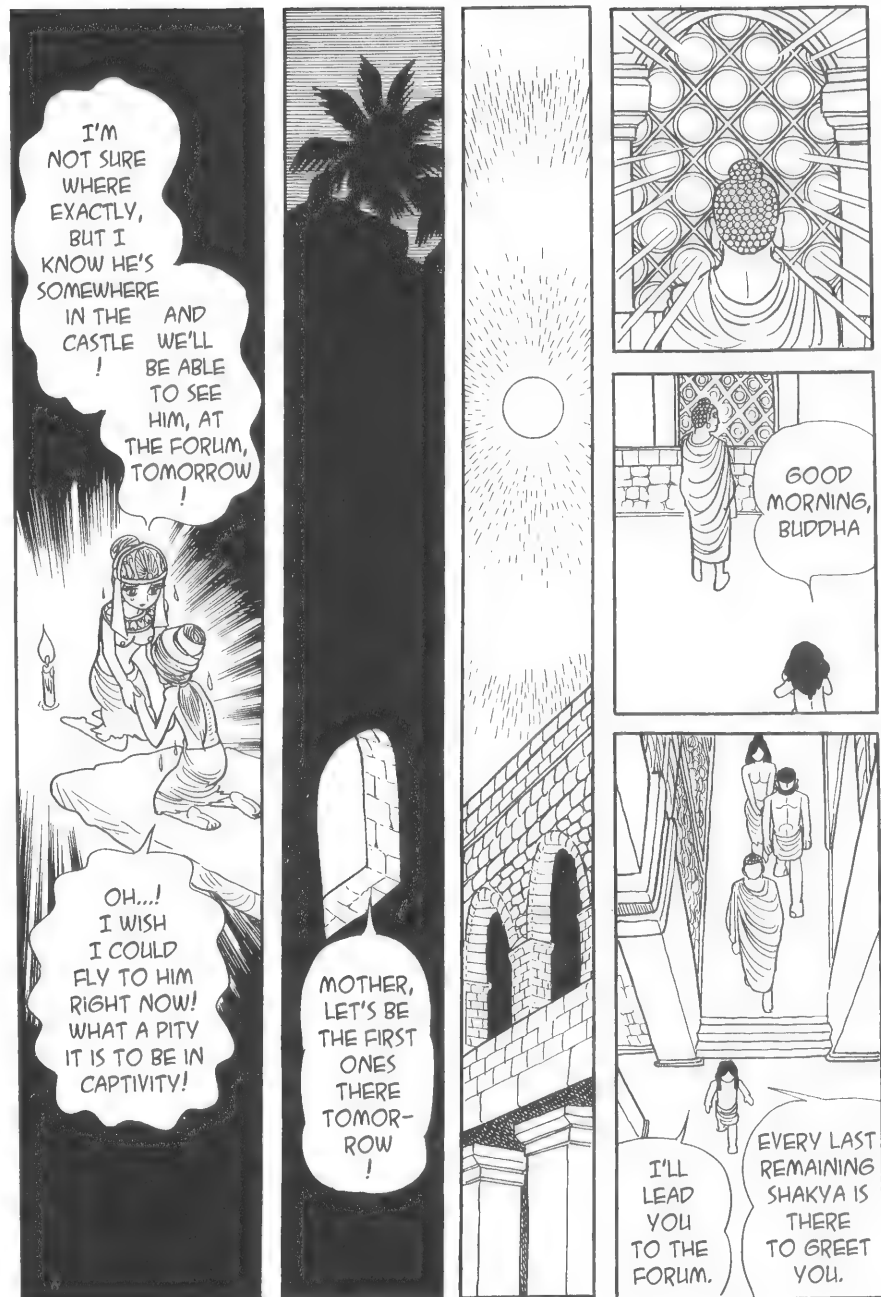


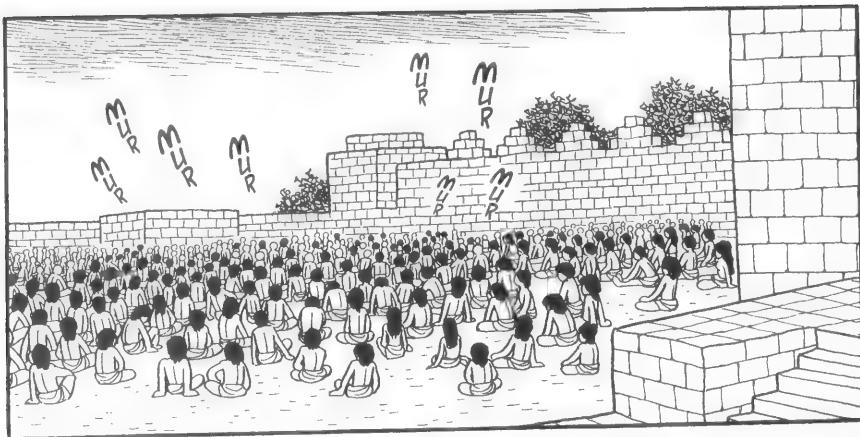












I HOPE MOTHER AND YASHODARA ARE HERE, TOO.

I'D LOVE TO SEE THEM AGAIN...

BUT IF THEY'RE AS RUN DOWN AS MY FATHER...

THAT'S RIGHT! MY SON RAHULA! HOW IS HE? IS HE ALIVE?



SILENCE!

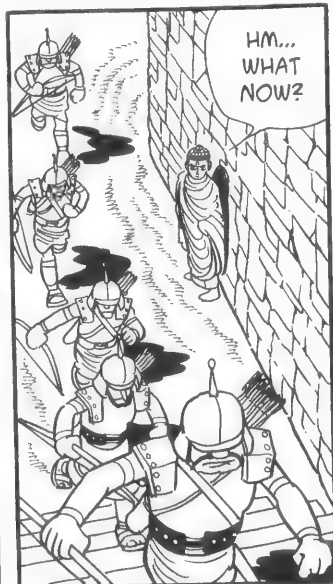
OUR PRINCE SIDDHARTHA, AFTER AN ABSENCE OF MANY YEARS



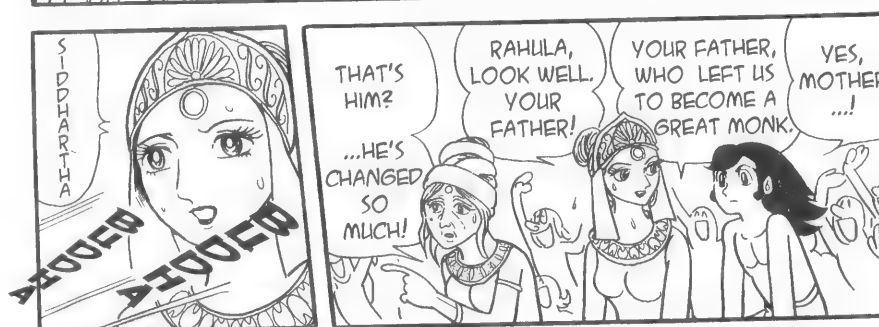
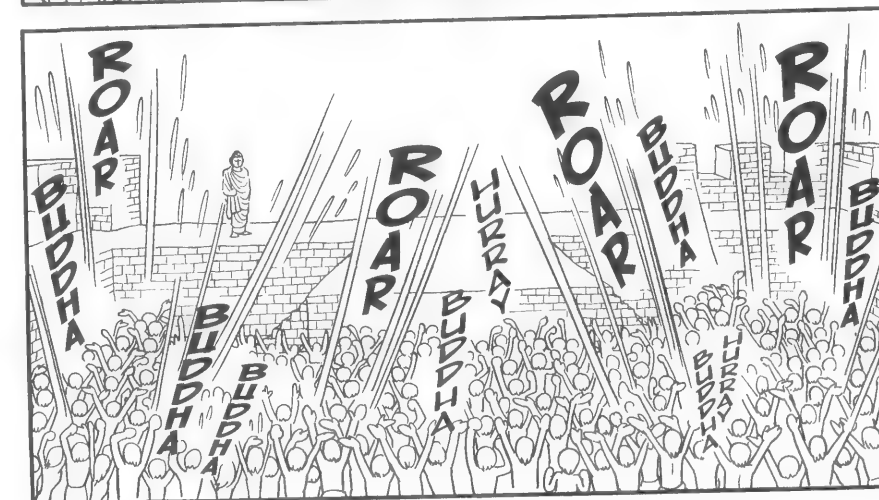
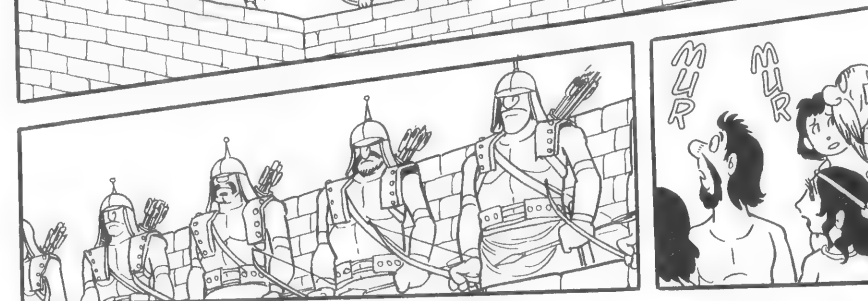
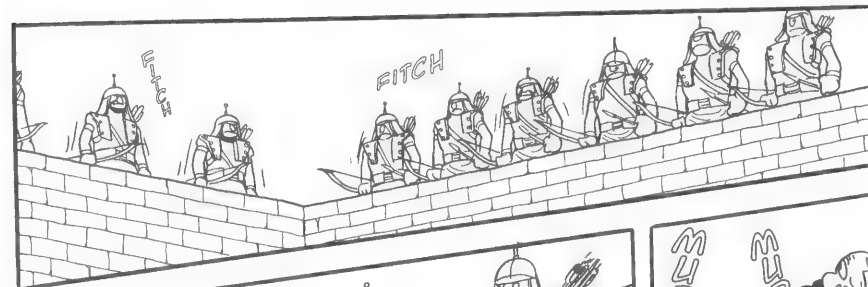
...IS NOW RETURNED TO HIS HOMETOWN OF KAPILAVASTU AS BUDDHA, THE CHOSEN ONE!

HE IS ABOUT TO COME BEFORE YOU

AND YOU SHALL HEAR HIS VOICE!



HM... WHAT NOW?



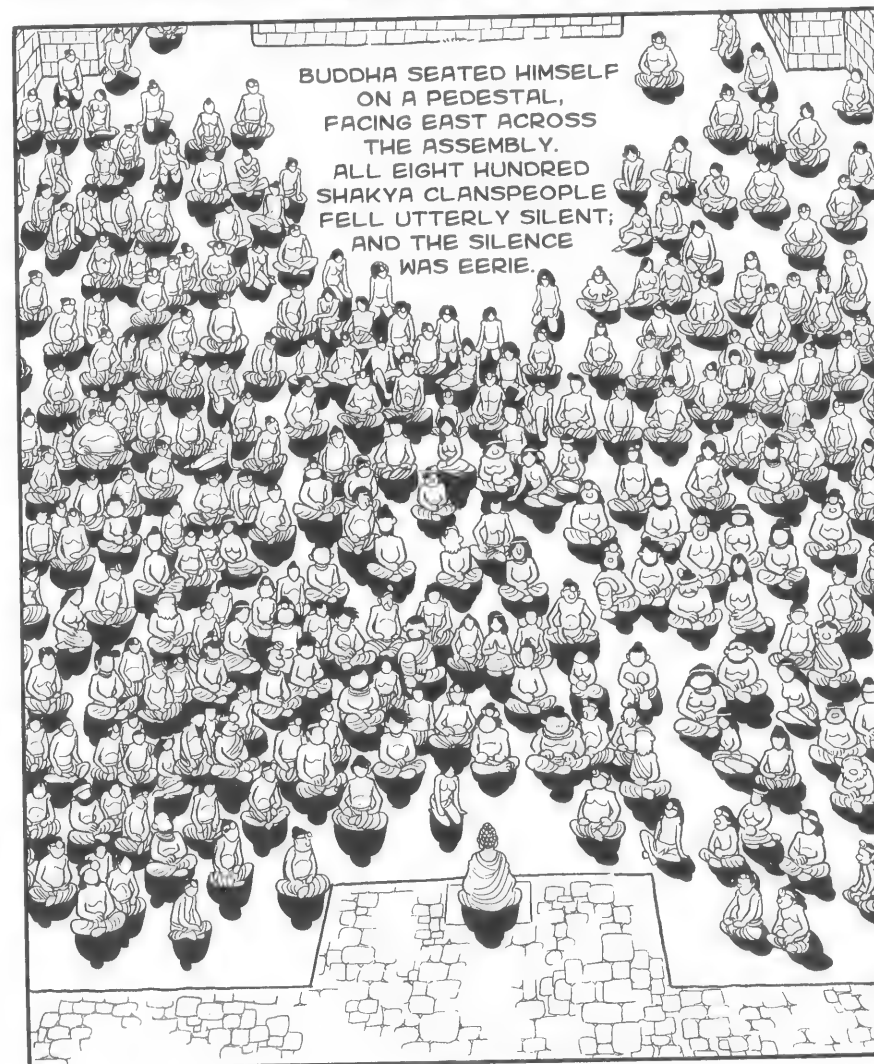
THAT'S HIM?

...HE'S CHANGED SO MUCH!

RAHULA, LOOK WELL YOUR FATHER!

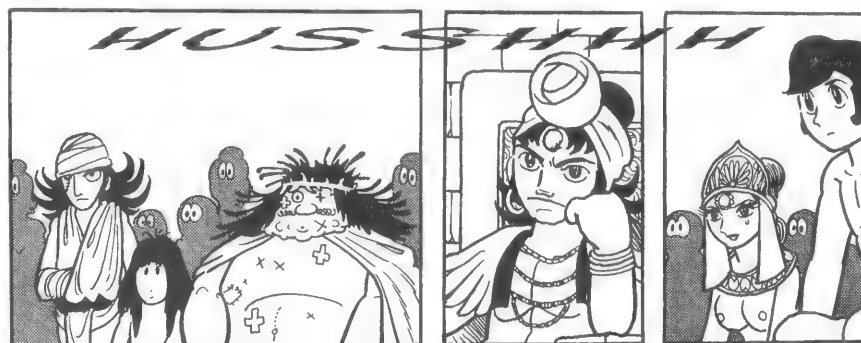
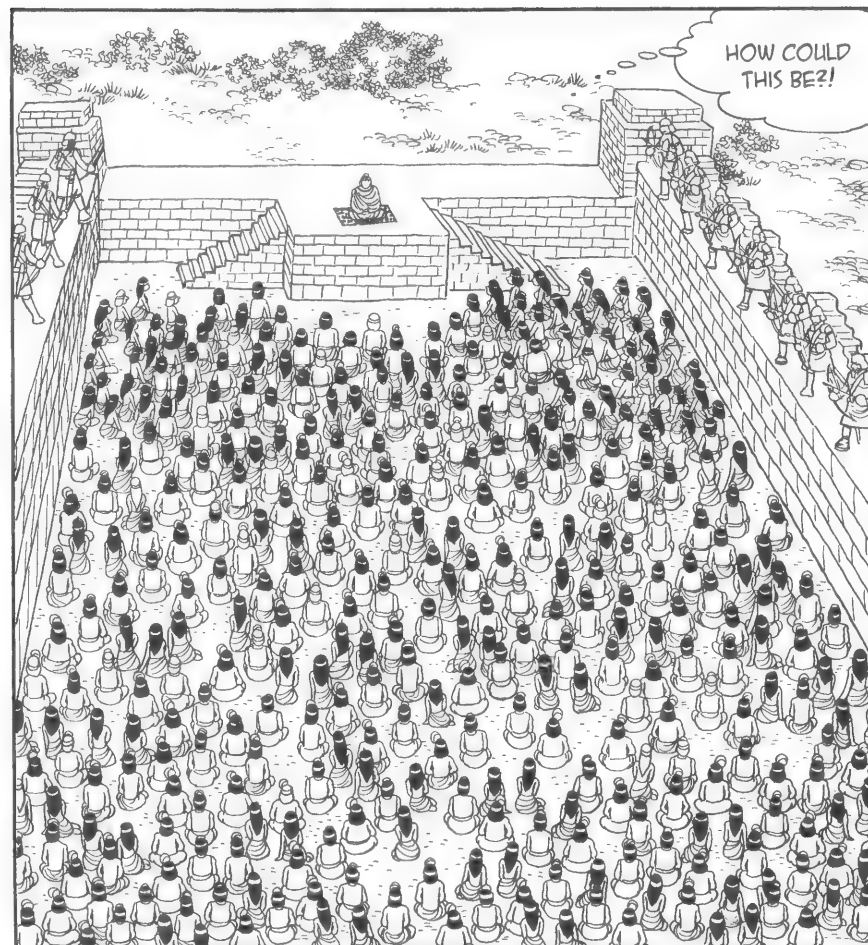
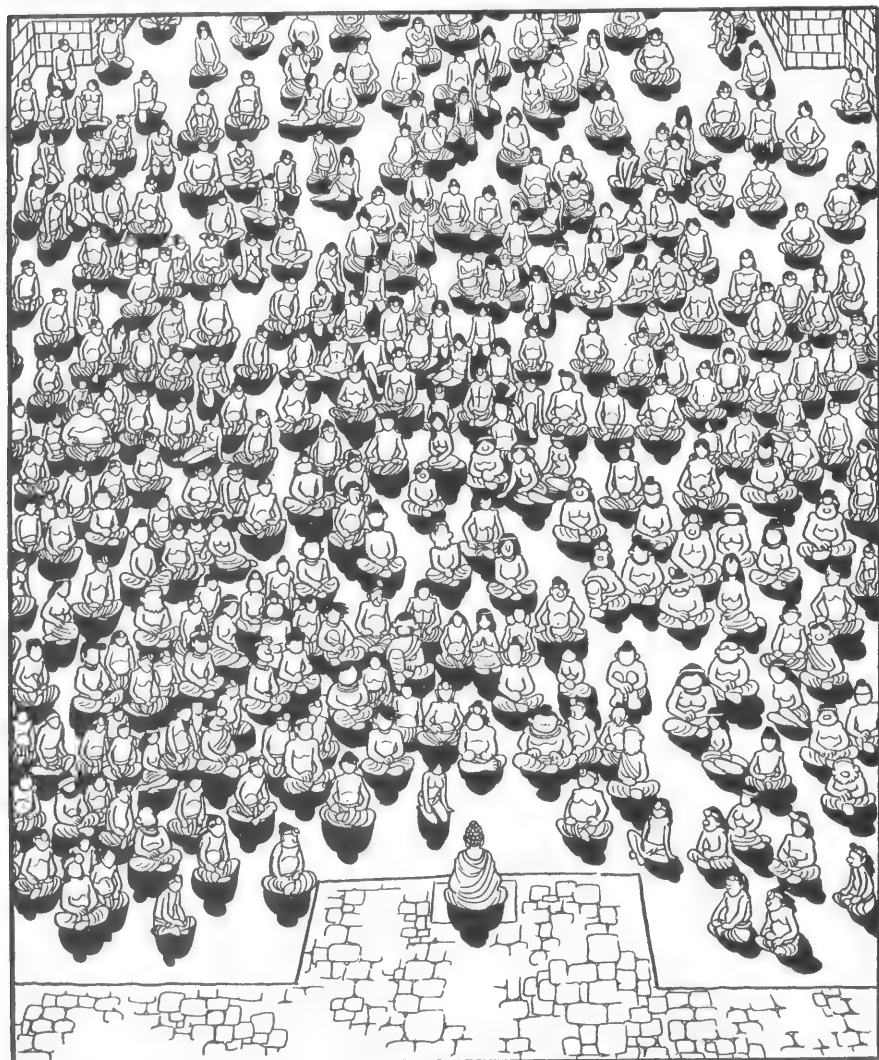
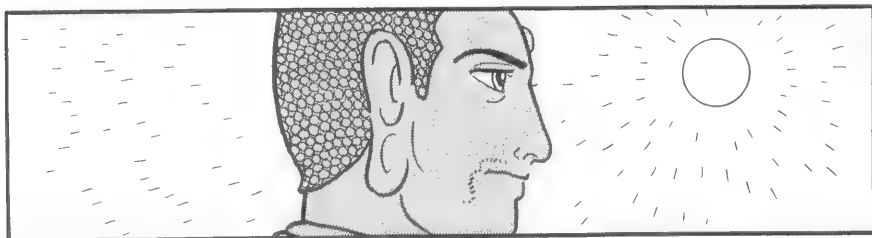
YOUR FATHER, WHO LEFT US TO BECOME A GREAT MONK.

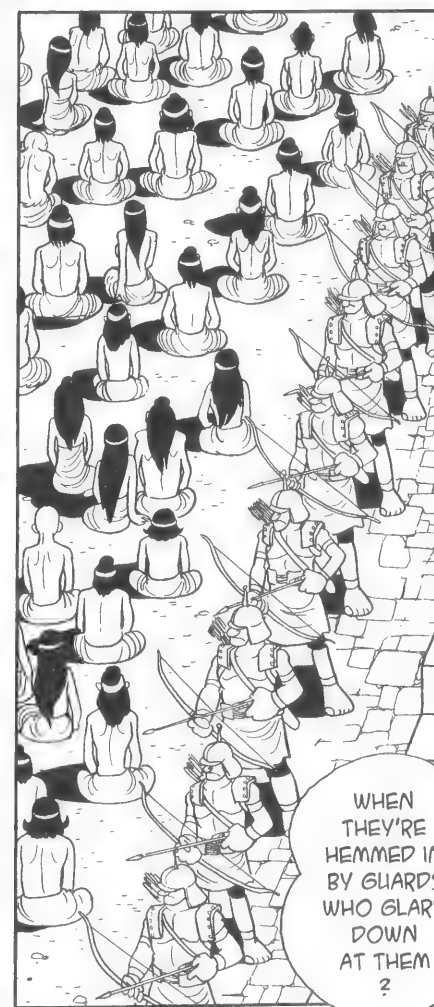
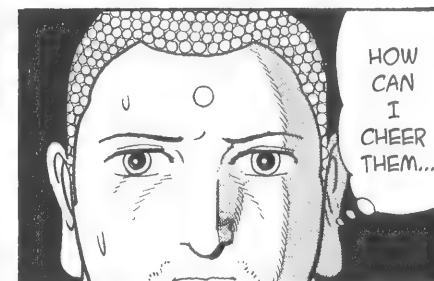
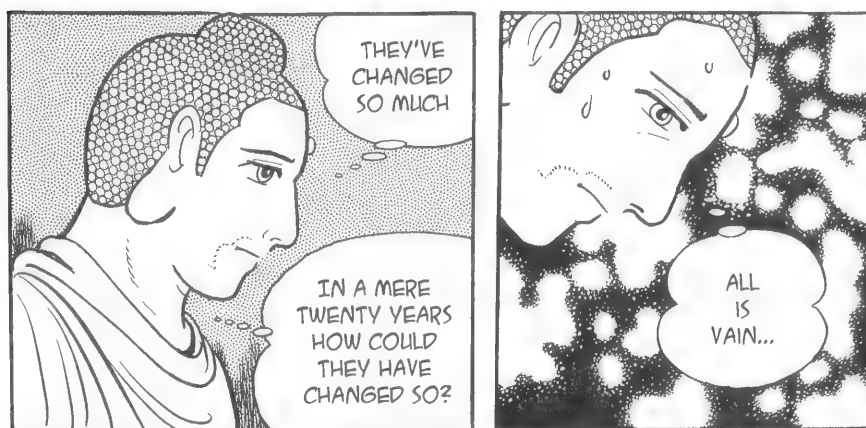
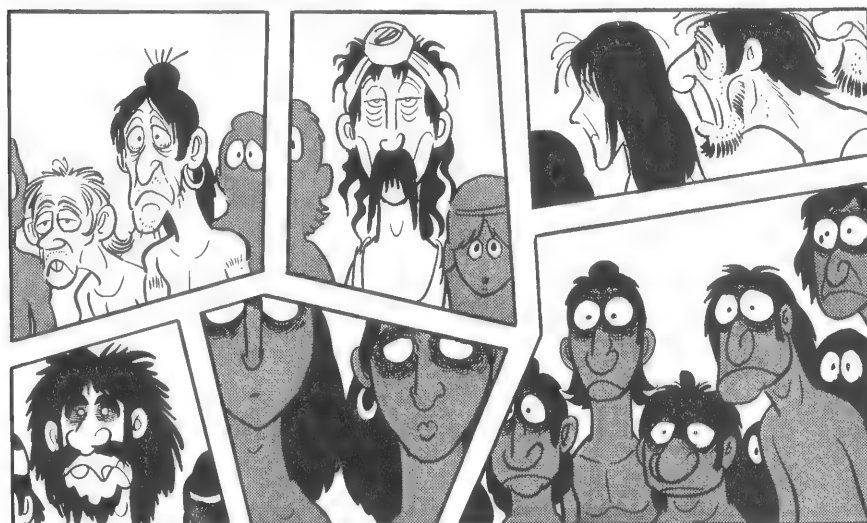
YES, MOTHER ...!

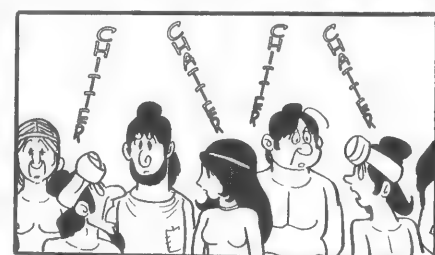
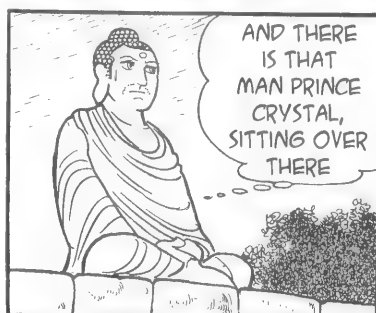
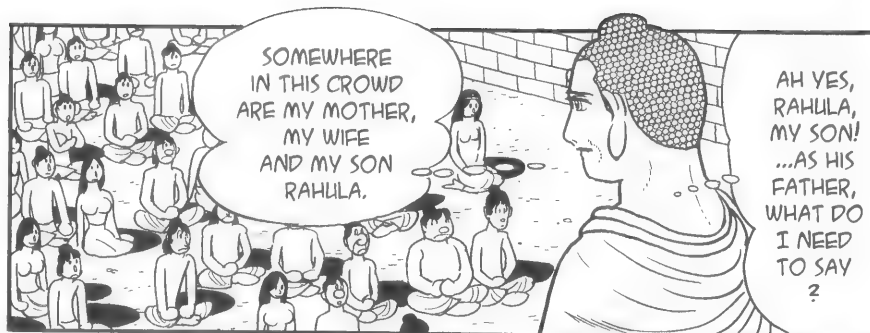


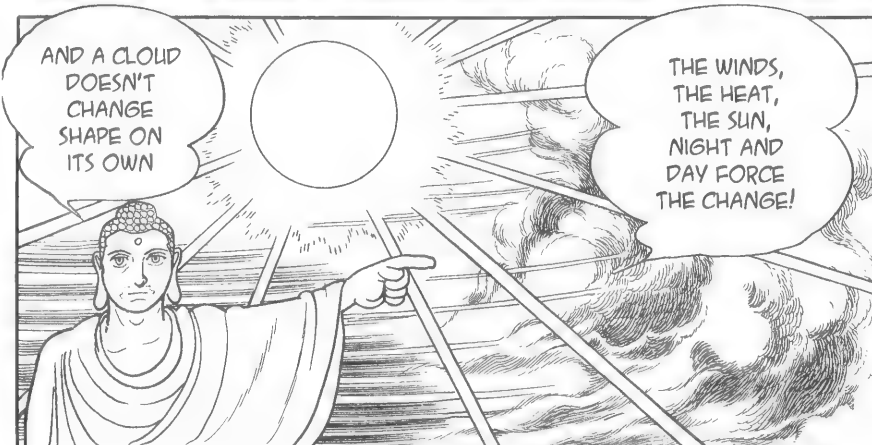
CHAPTER SIX

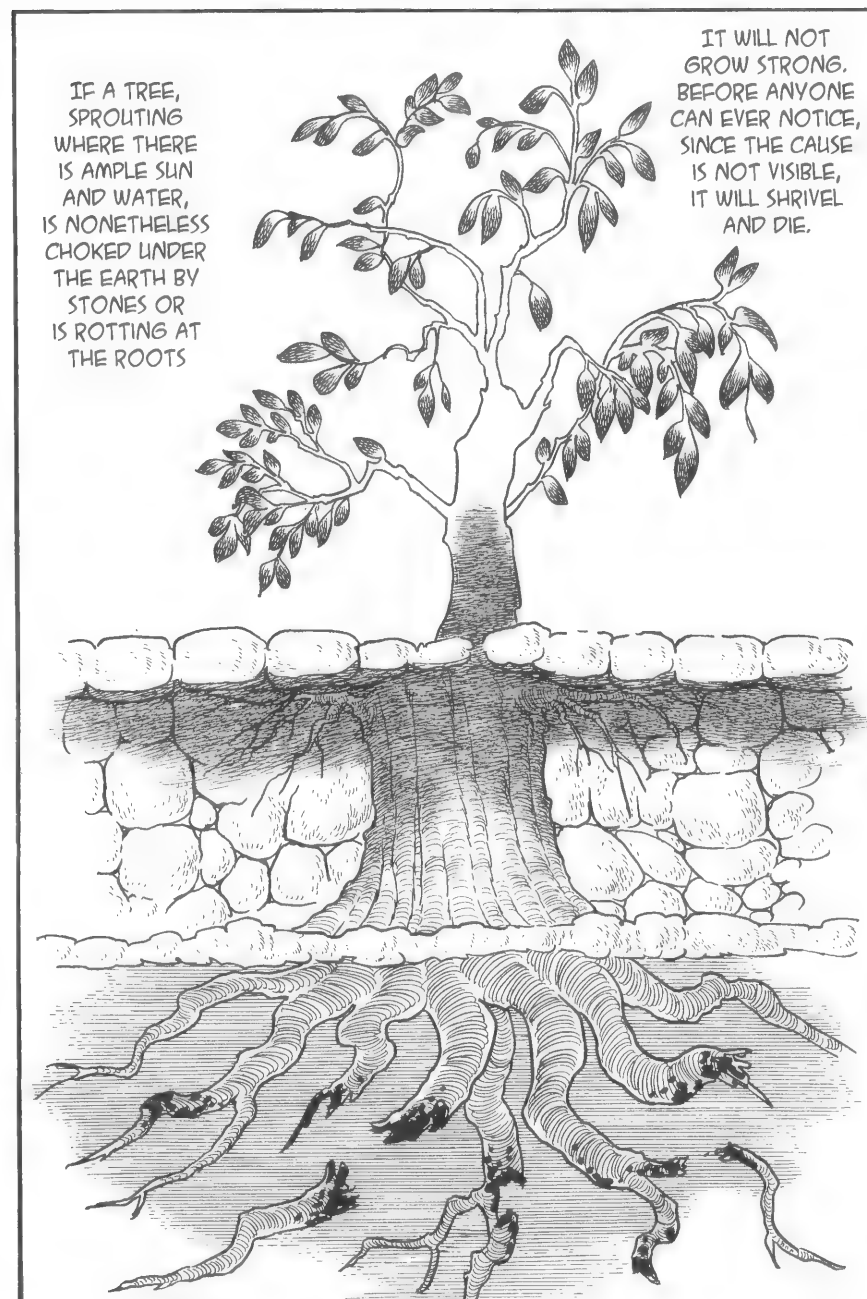
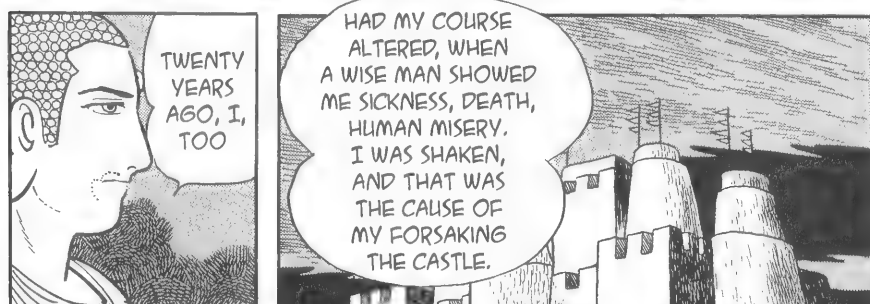
A BATTLE OF WILLS

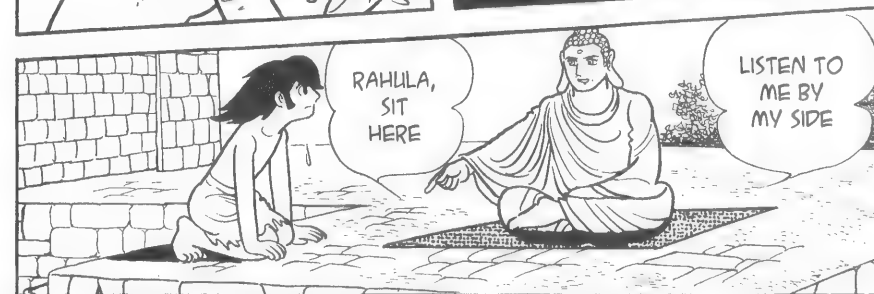
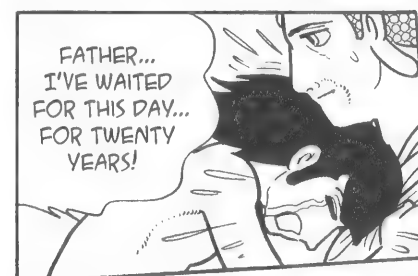
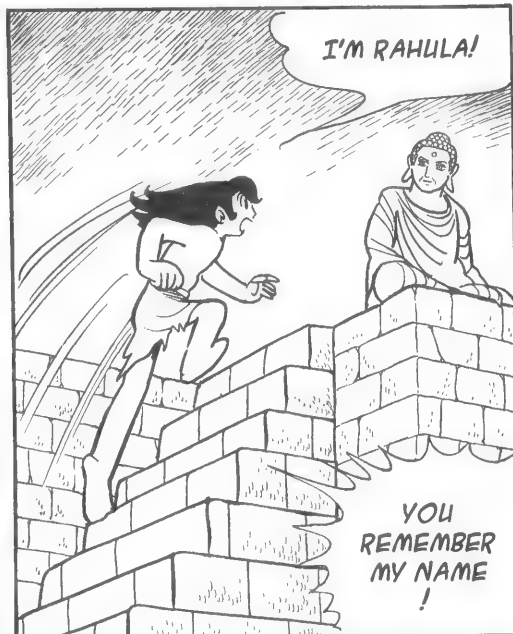
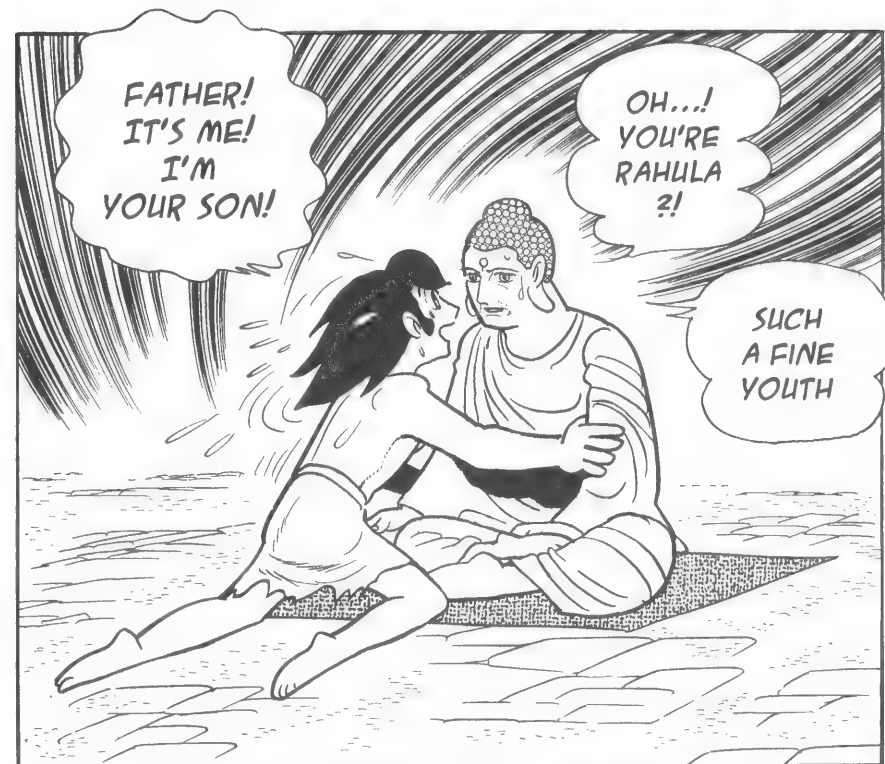
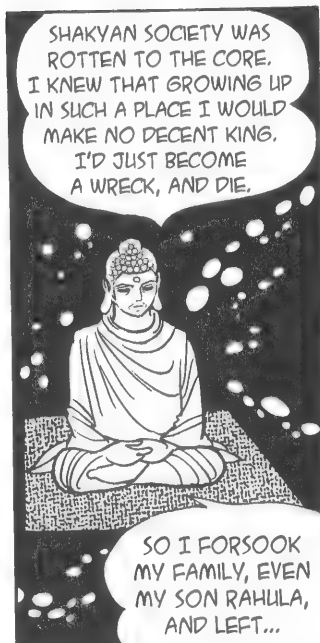
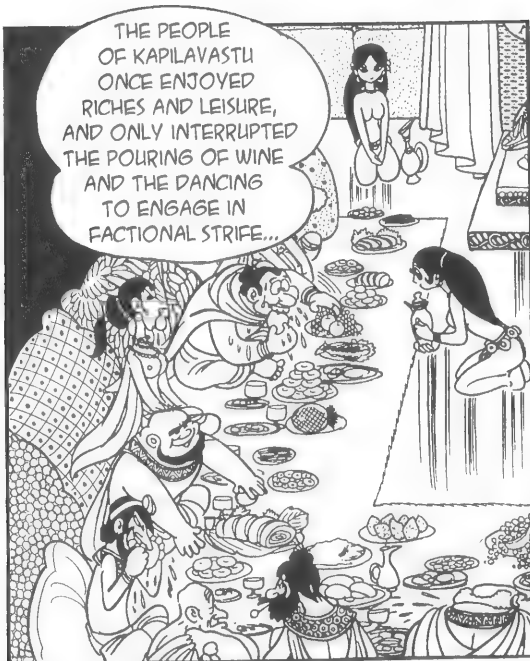


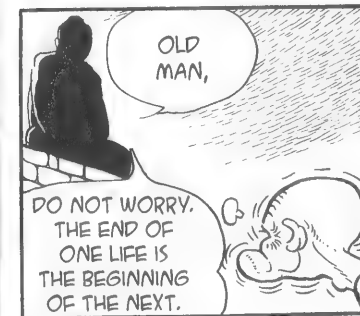
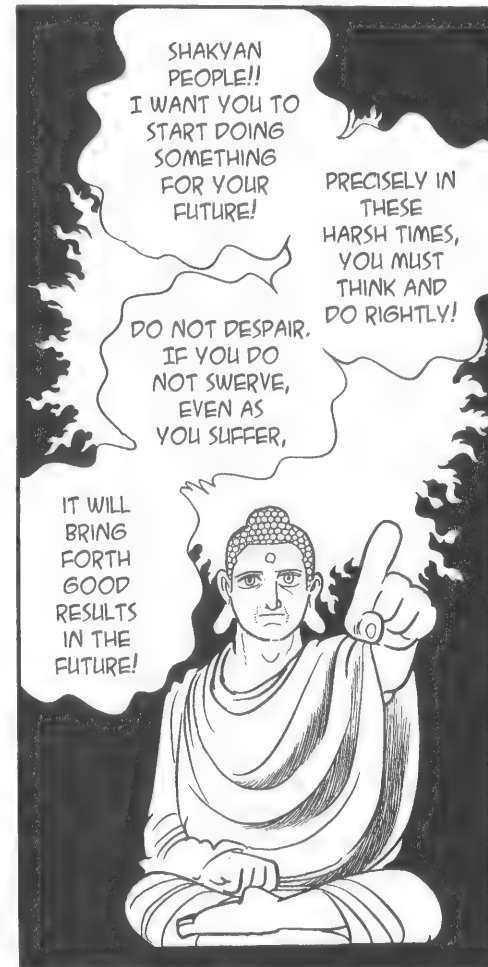
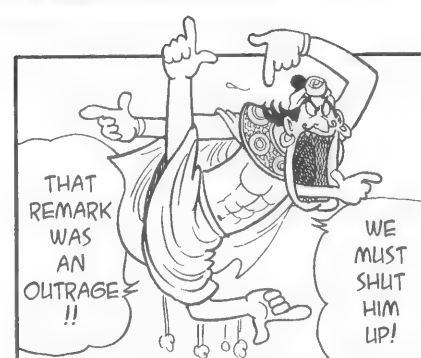
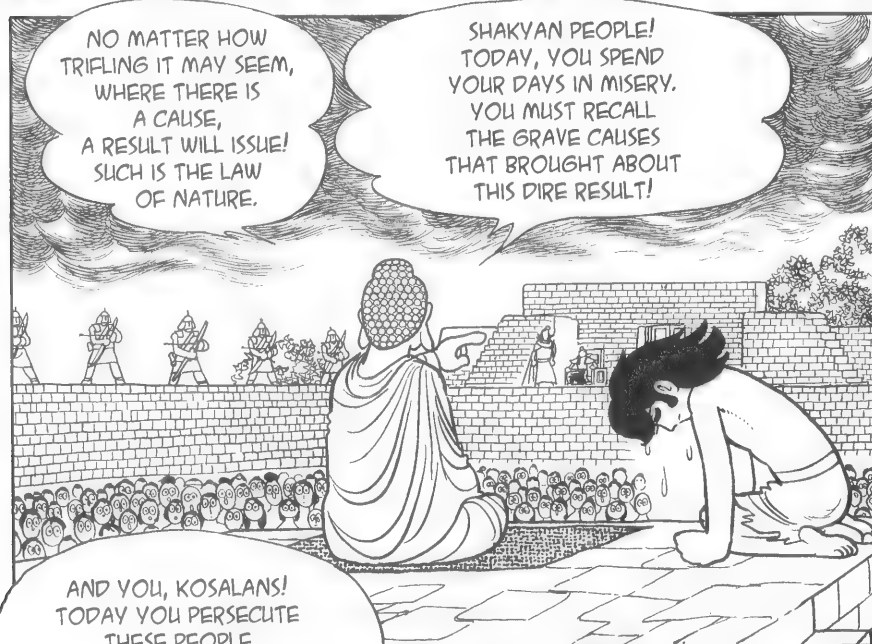












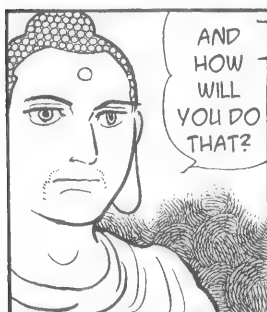


WHEE,
THANK HEAVEN!
THEN I'LL DO
ALL THE RIGHT
I CAN!



I'VE
HEARD
ENOUGH
!

BUDDHA, DOING AS
YOU SAY WON'T GIVE
US PEACE OF MIND!
FIRST WE HAVE TO BREAK
FREE FROM THE CHAINS
OF SLAVERY!



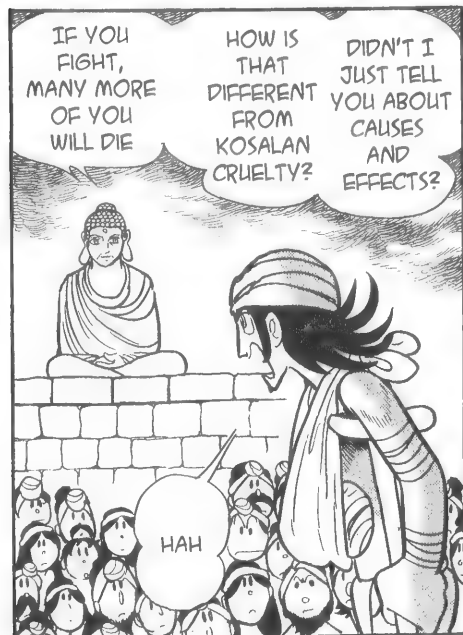
AND
HOW
WILL
YOU DO
THAT?



WITH
AN
UPRISING



WE'LL FIGHT
FOR OUR
FREEDOM!



IF YOU
FIGHT,
MANY MORE
OF YOU
WILL DIE

HOW IS
THAT
DIFFERENT
FROM
KOSALAN
CRUELTY?

DIDN'T I
JUST TELL
YOU ABOUT
CAUSES
AND
EFFECTS?

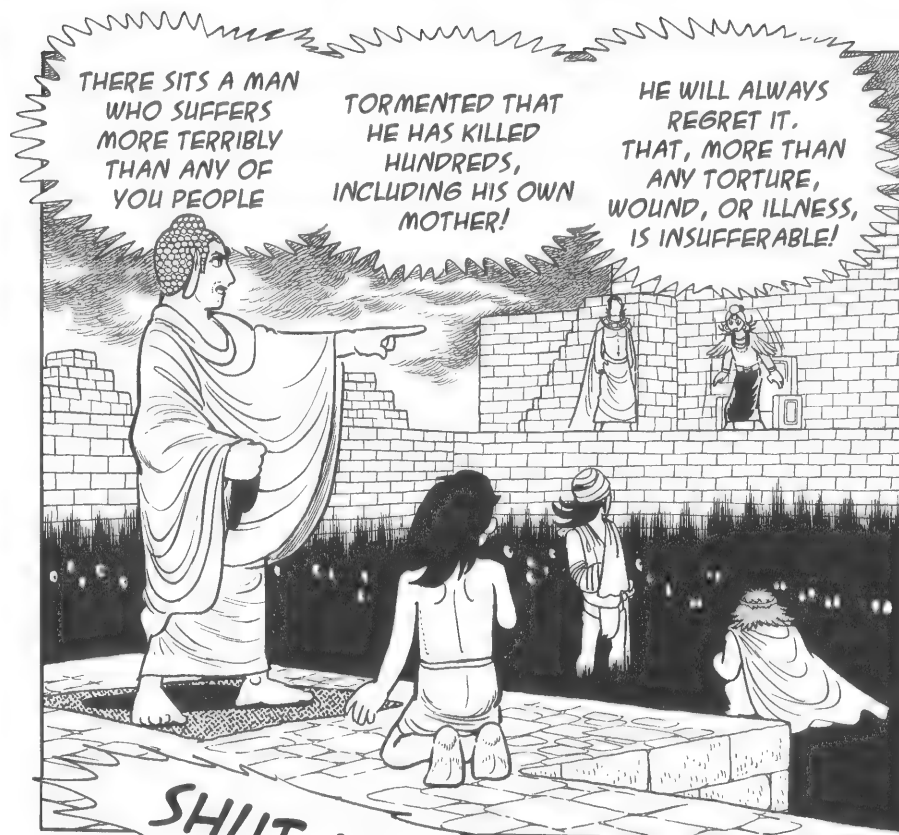
HAH



THEN HOW ABOUT
PRINCE CRYSTAL?!
HOW'S HE JUST
SITTING THERE WITH
A COCKY SMIRK
ON HIS FACE?



ALL RIGHT,
I'LL TELL
YOU!

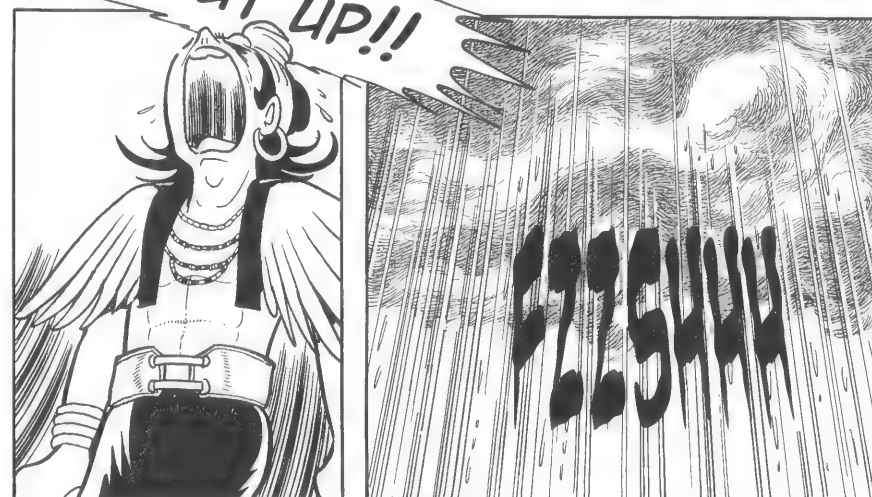


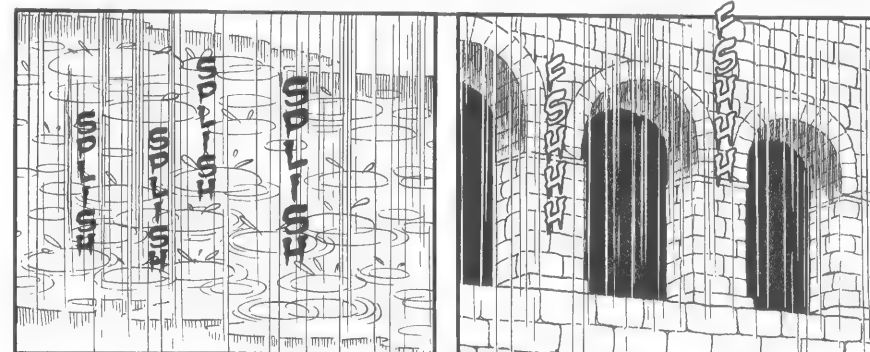
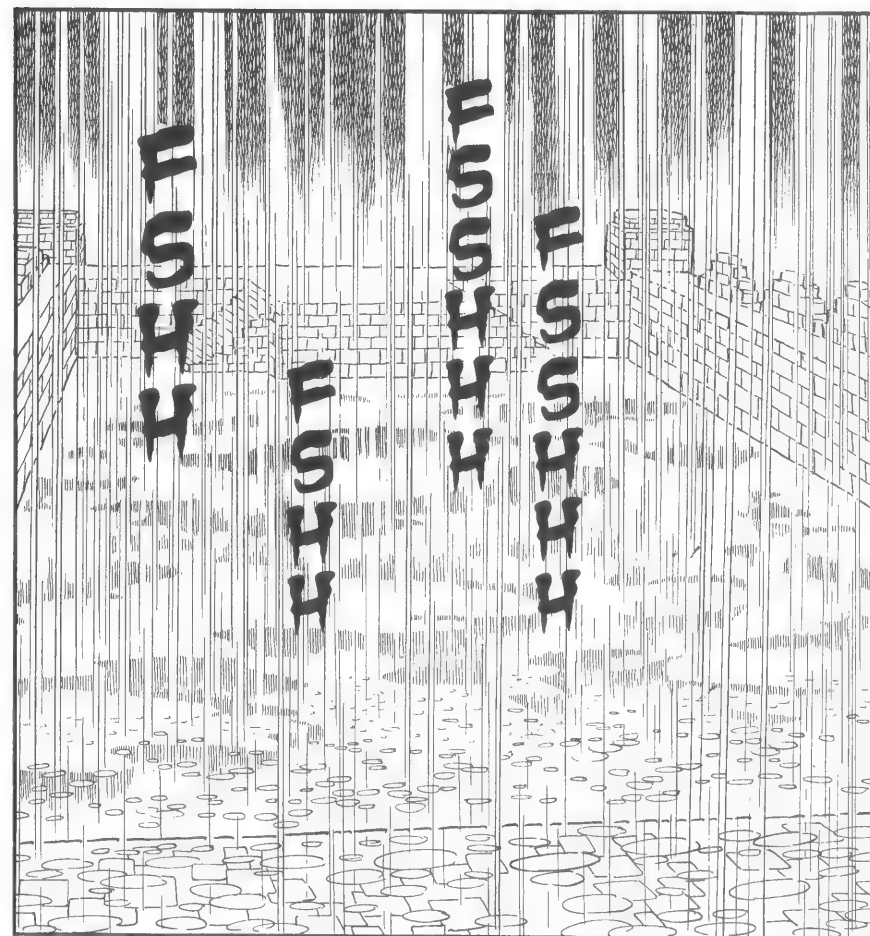
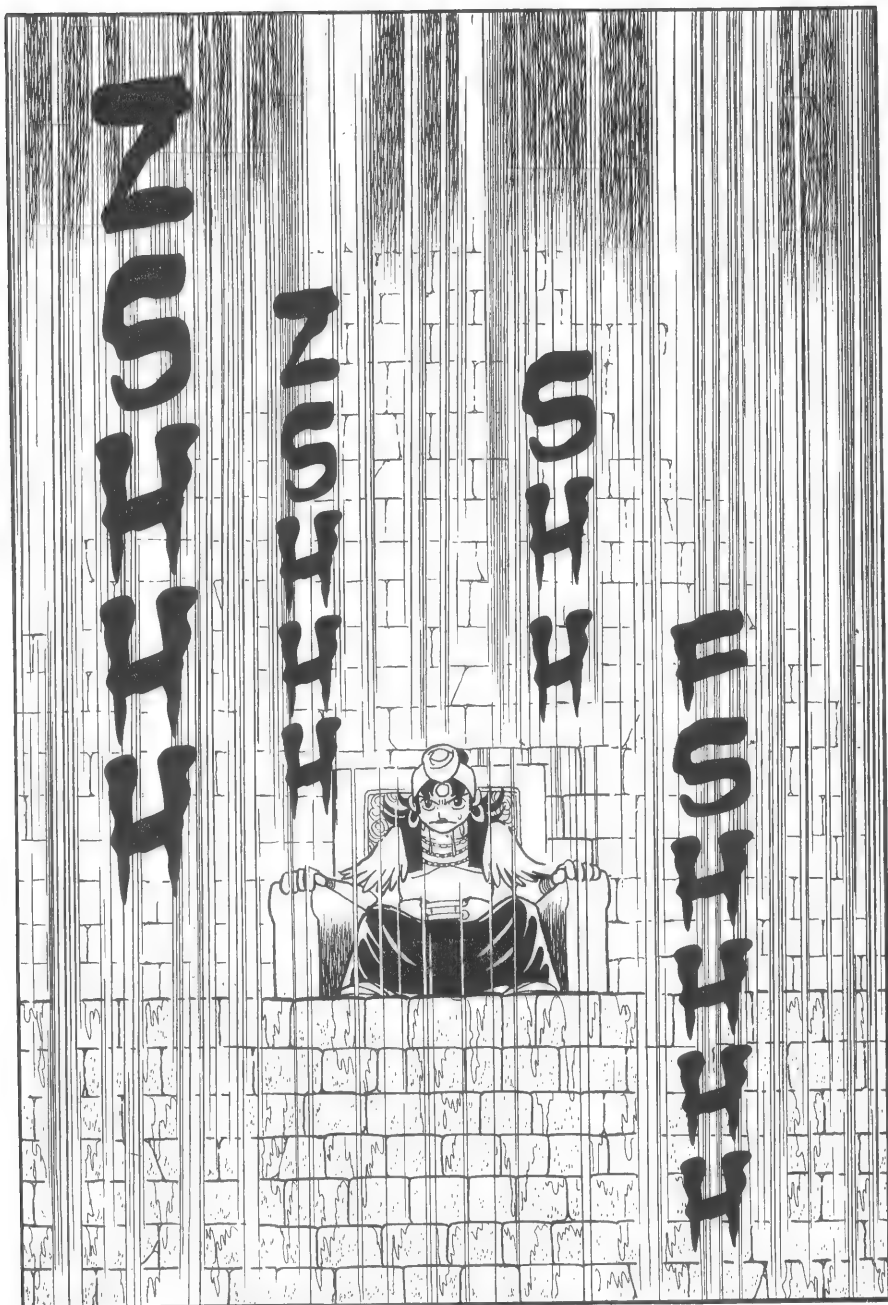
THERE SITS A MAN
WHO SUFFERS
MORE TERRIBLY
THAN ANY OF
YOU PEOPLE

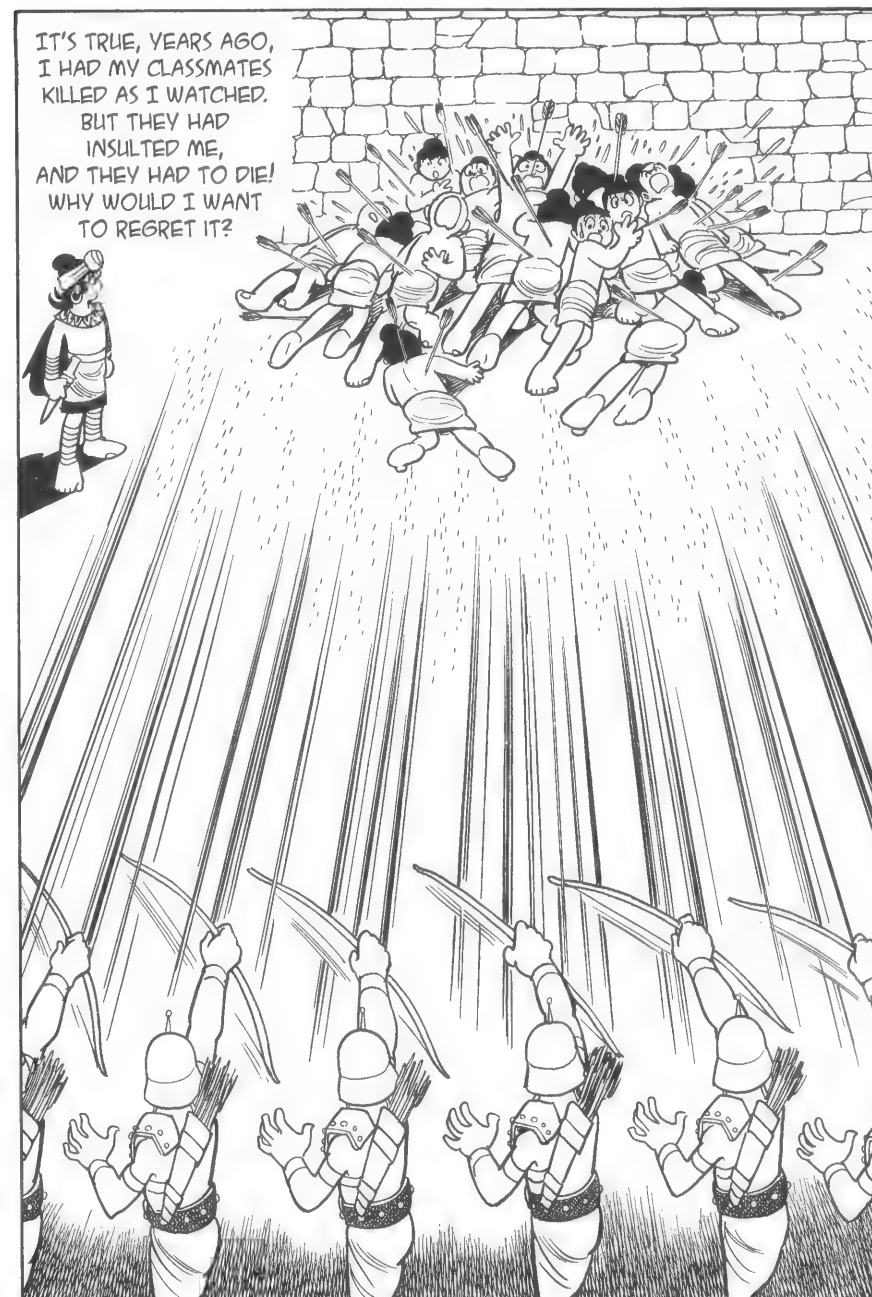
TORMENTED THAT
HE HAS KILLED
HUNDREDS,
INCLUDING HIS OWN
MOTHER!

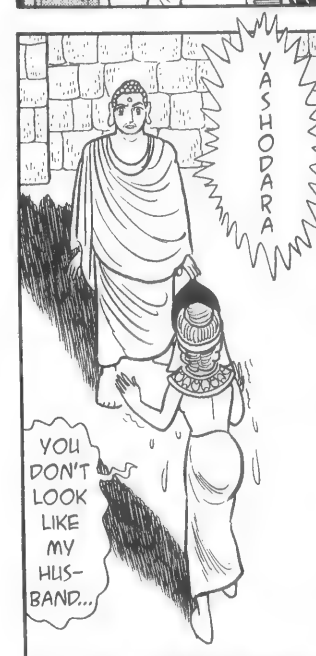
HE WILL ALWAYS
REGRET IT.
THAT, MORE THAN
ANY TORTURE,
WOUND, OR ILLNESS,
IS INSUFFERABLE!

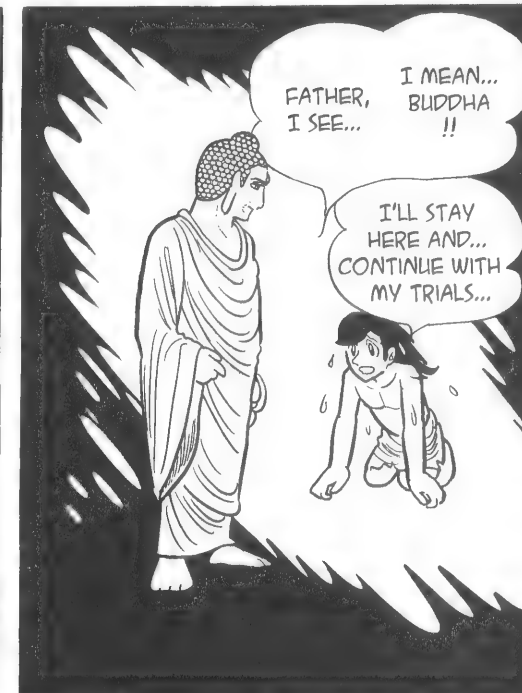
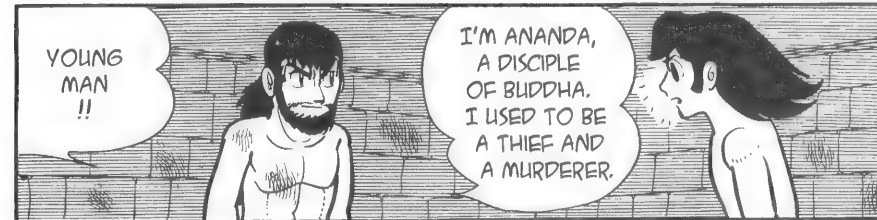
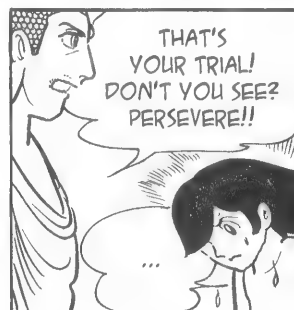
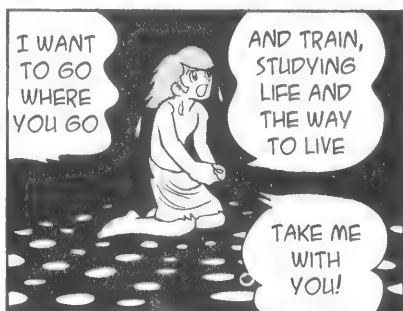
SHUT UP!!

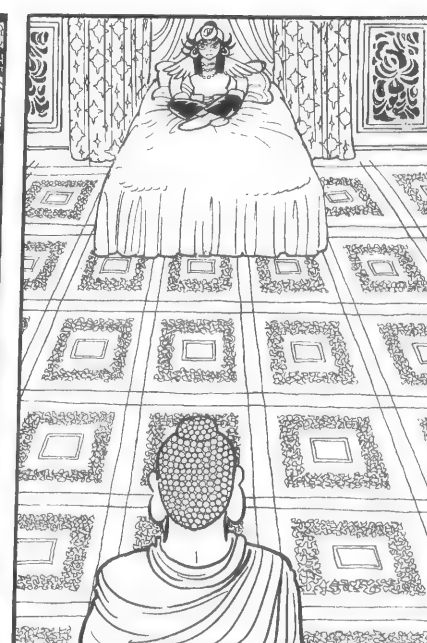
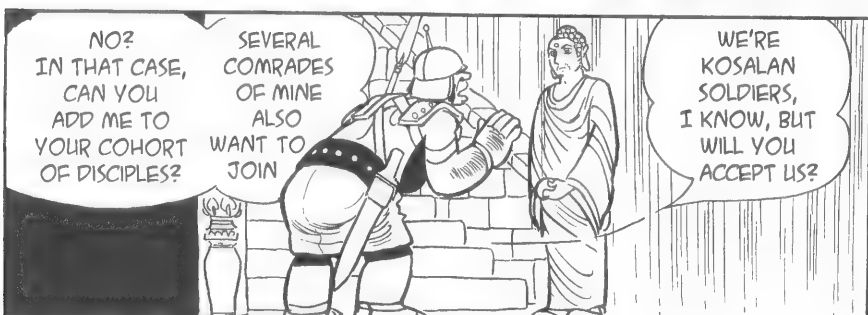
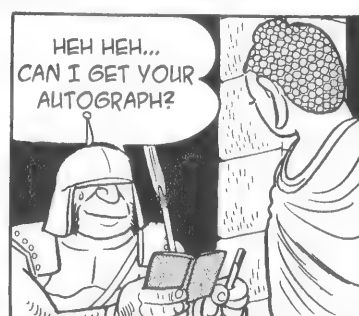
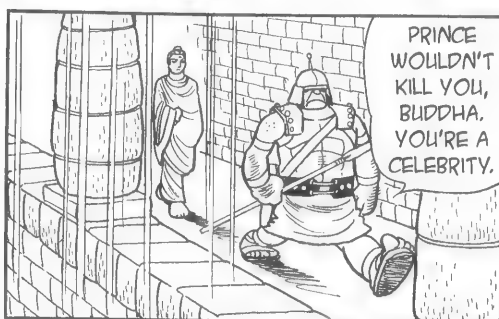


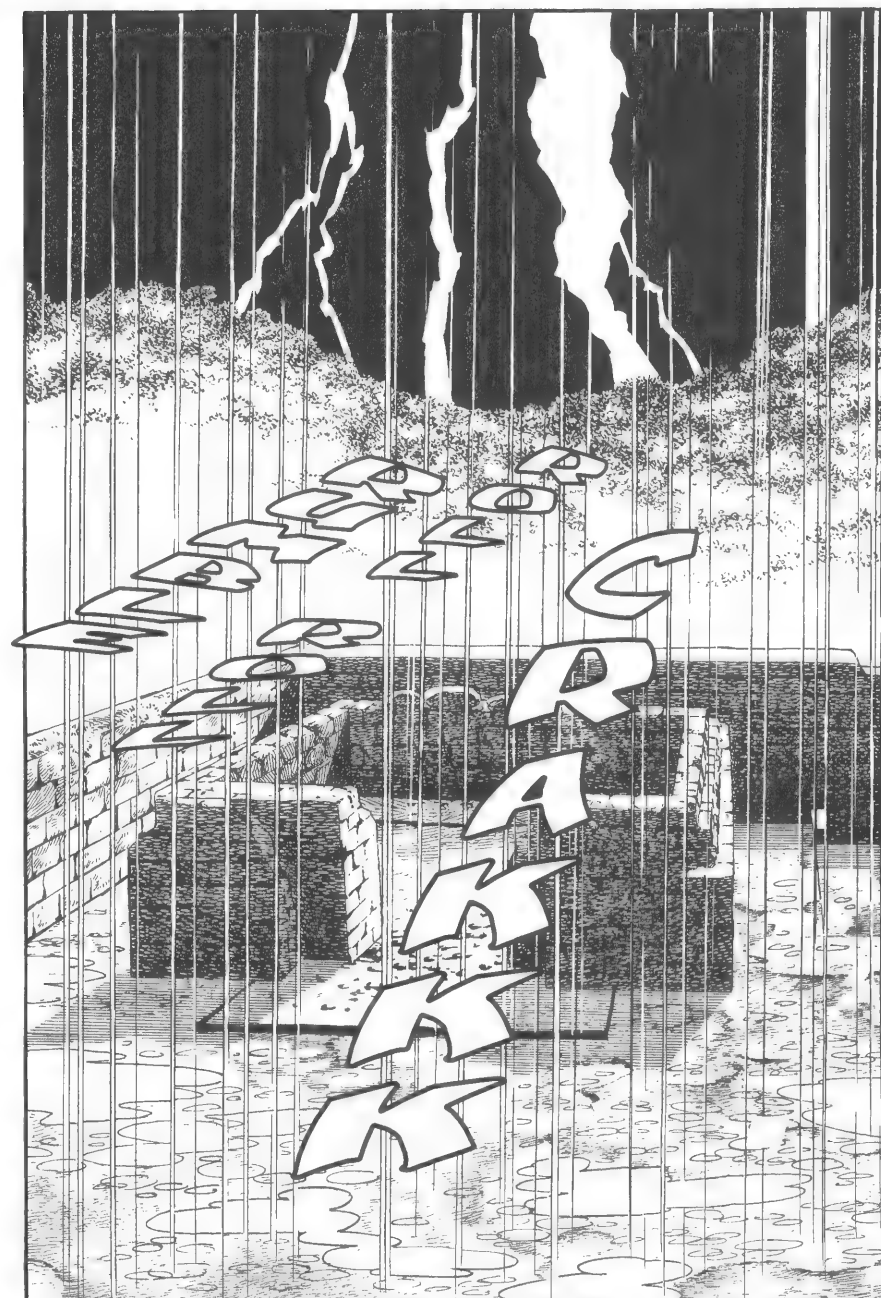


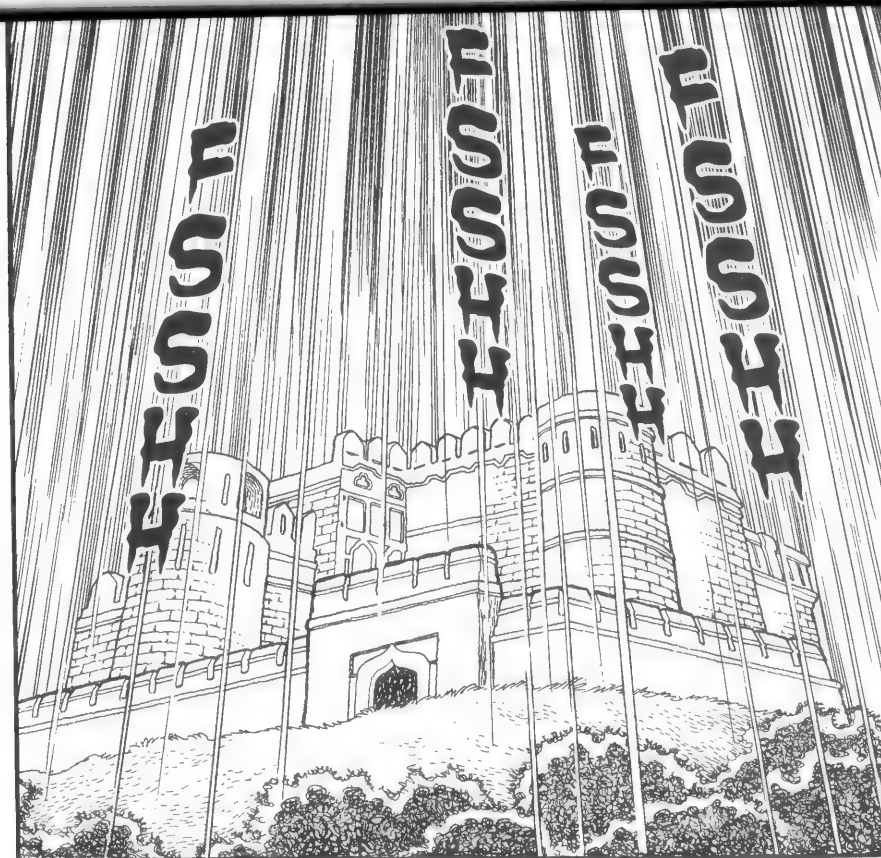






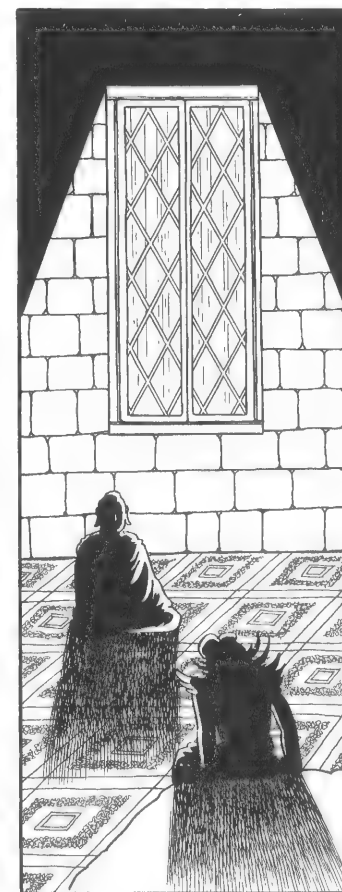
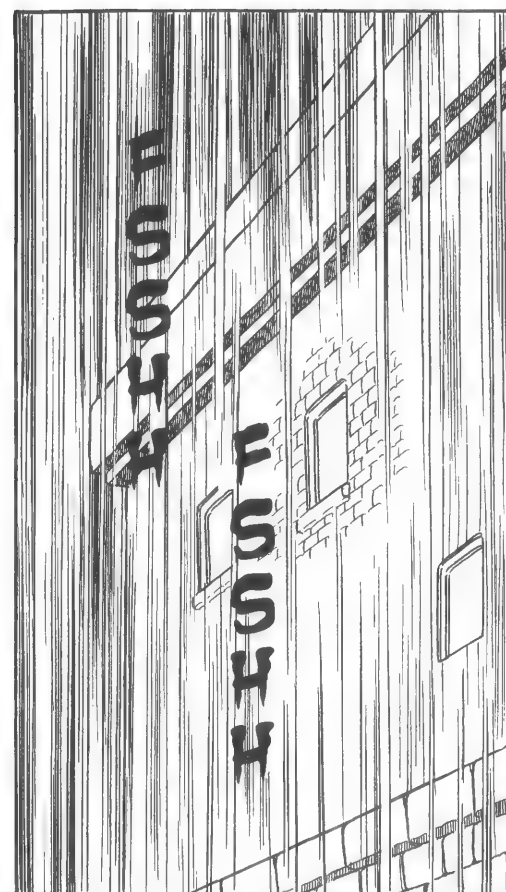




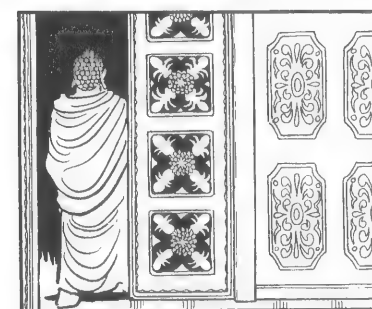
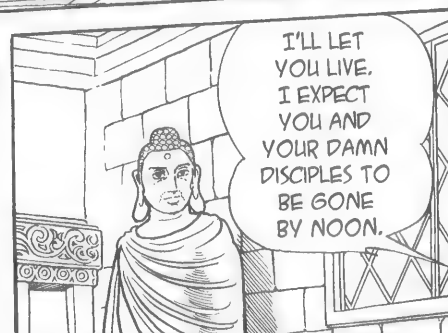
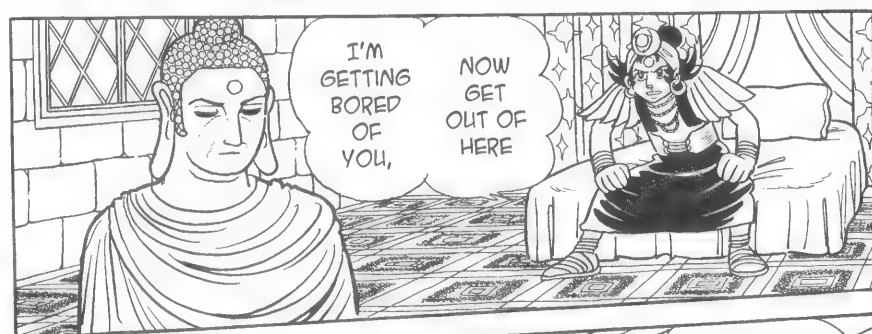
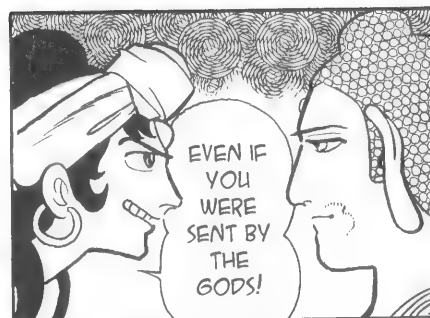


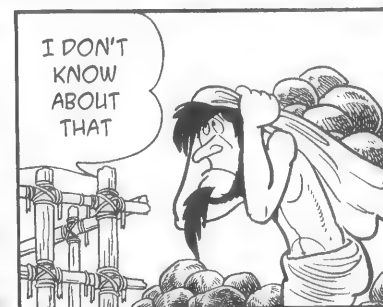
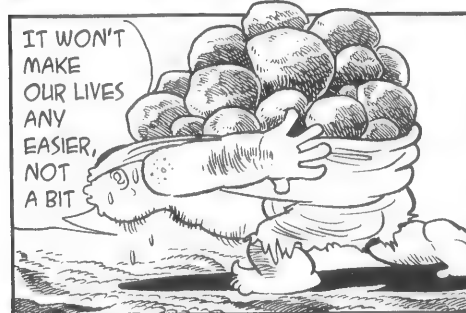
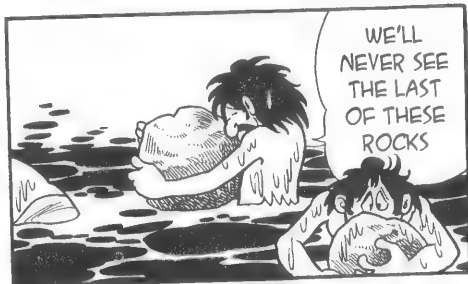
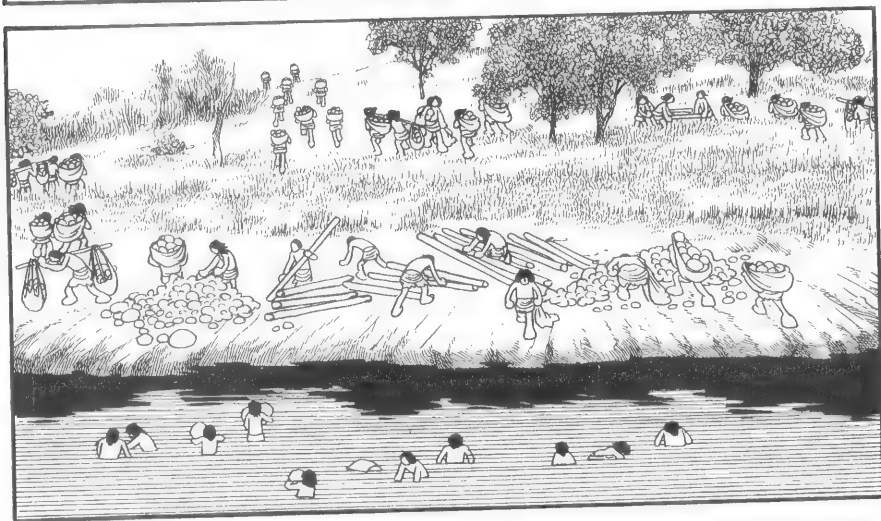
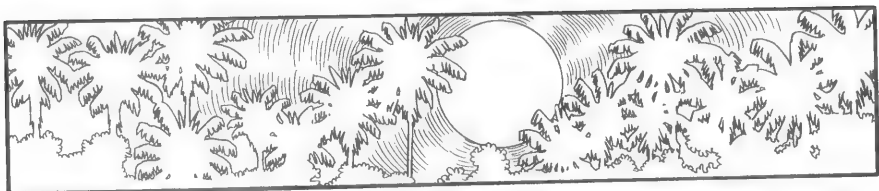


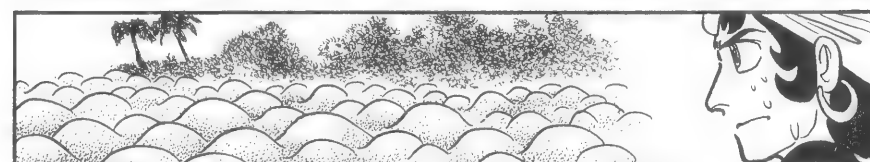
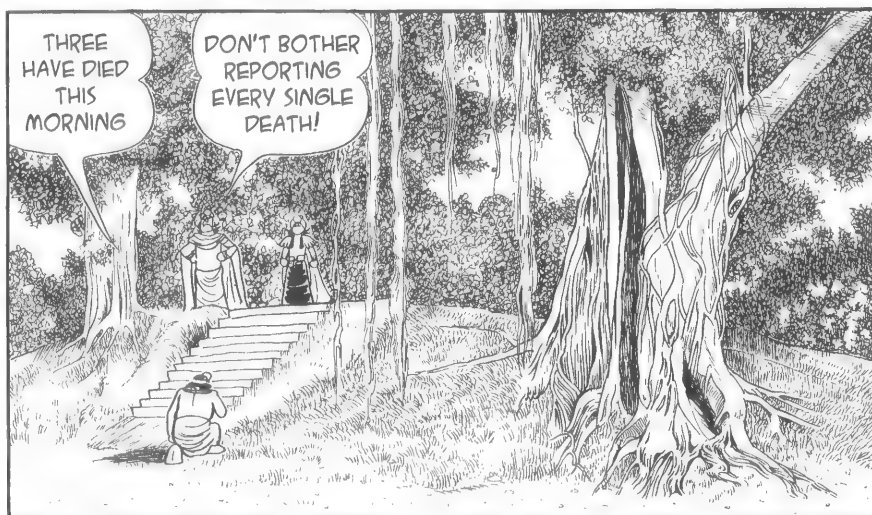
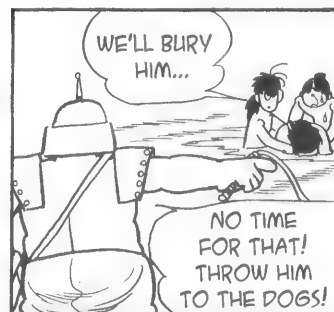
372

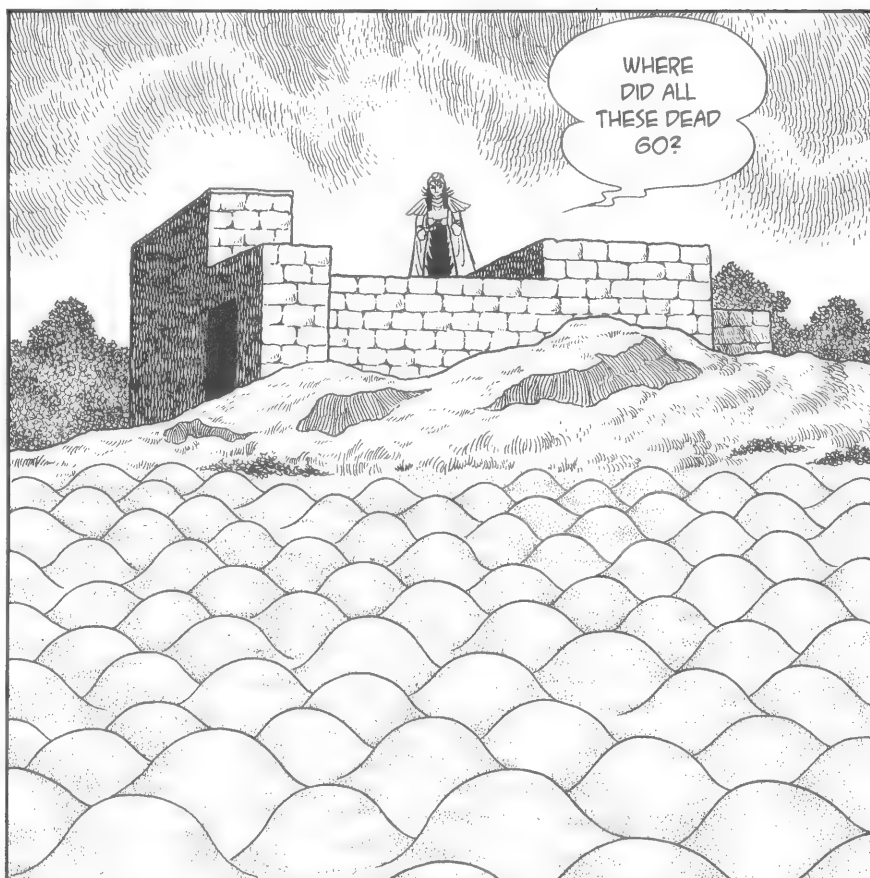


373

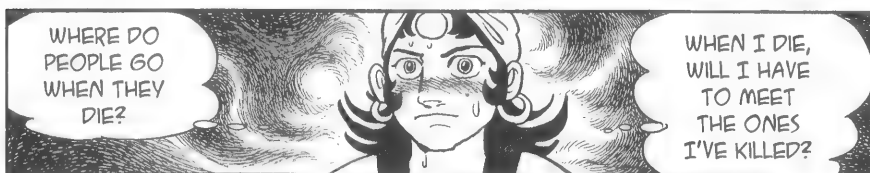






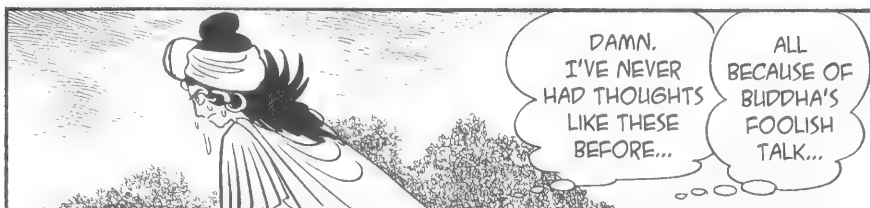


WHERE
DID ALL
THESE DEAD
GO?



WHERE DO
PEOPLE GO
WHEN THEY
DIE?

WHEN I DIE,
WILL I HAVE
TO MEET
THE ONES
I'VE KILLED?

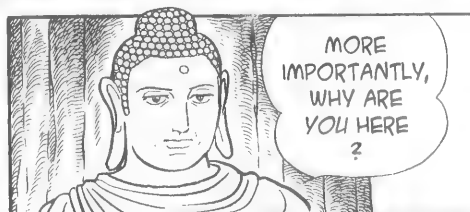
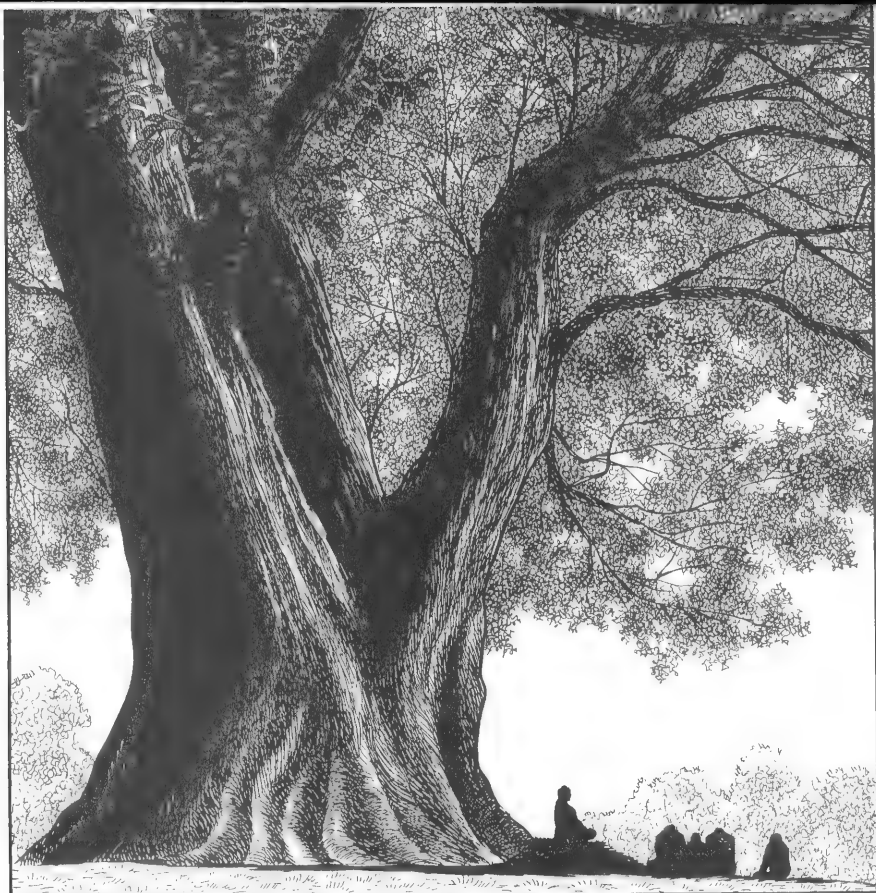


DAMN.
I'VE NEVER
HAD THOUGHTS
LIKE THESE
BEFORE...

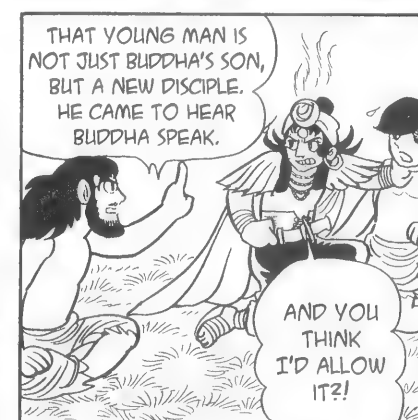
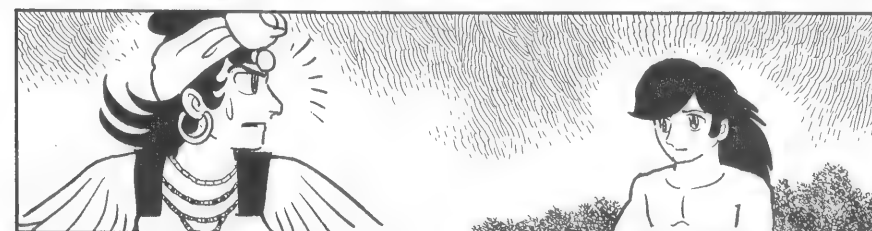
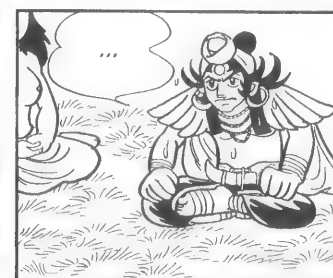
ALL
BECAUSE OF
BUDDHA'S
FOOLISH
TALK...

CHAPTER SEVEN

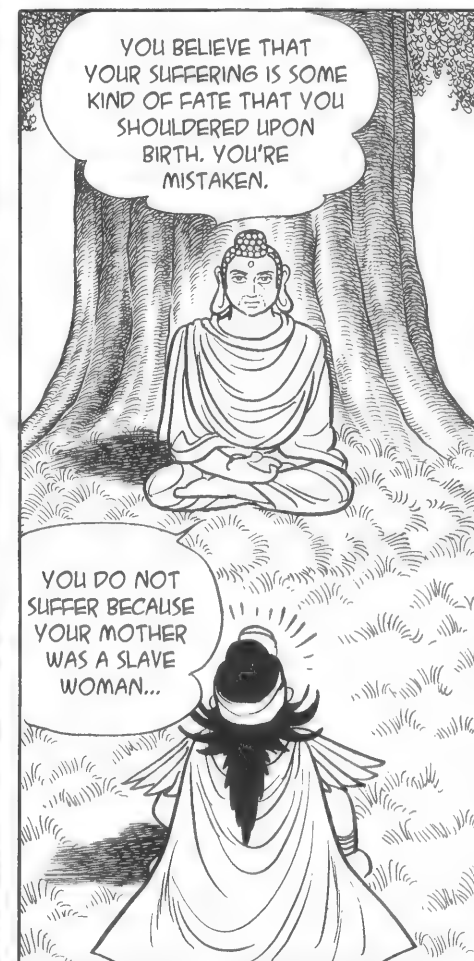
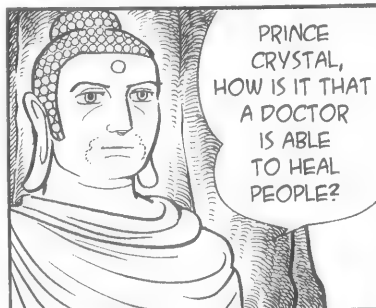
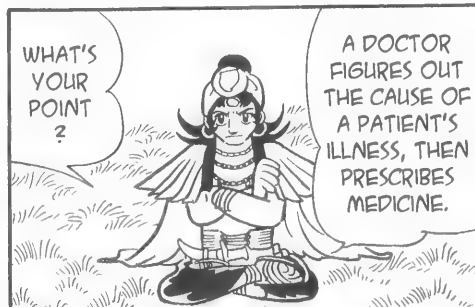
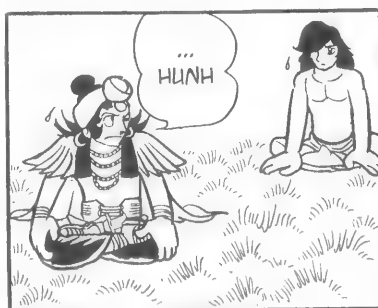
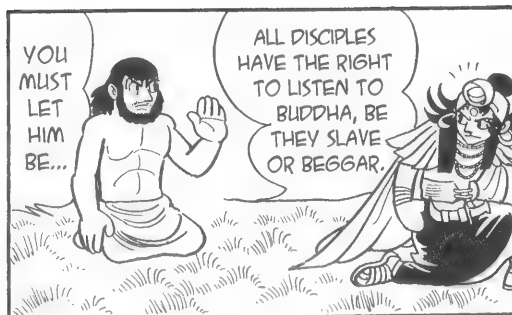
EMANCIPATION



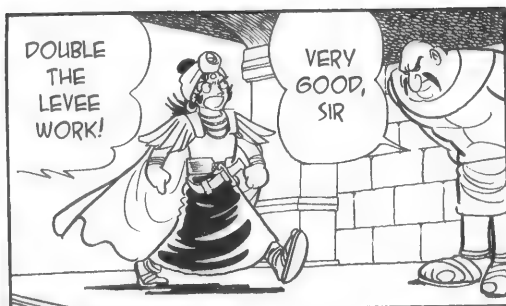
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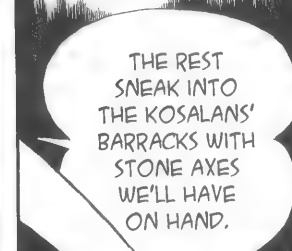


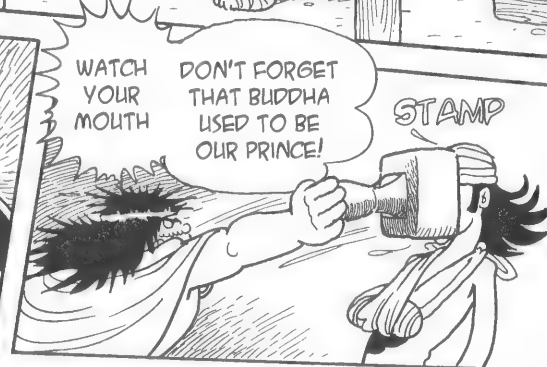
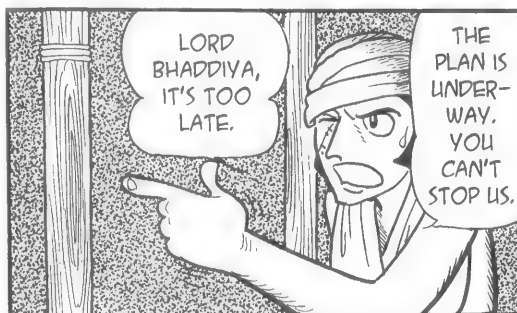
383

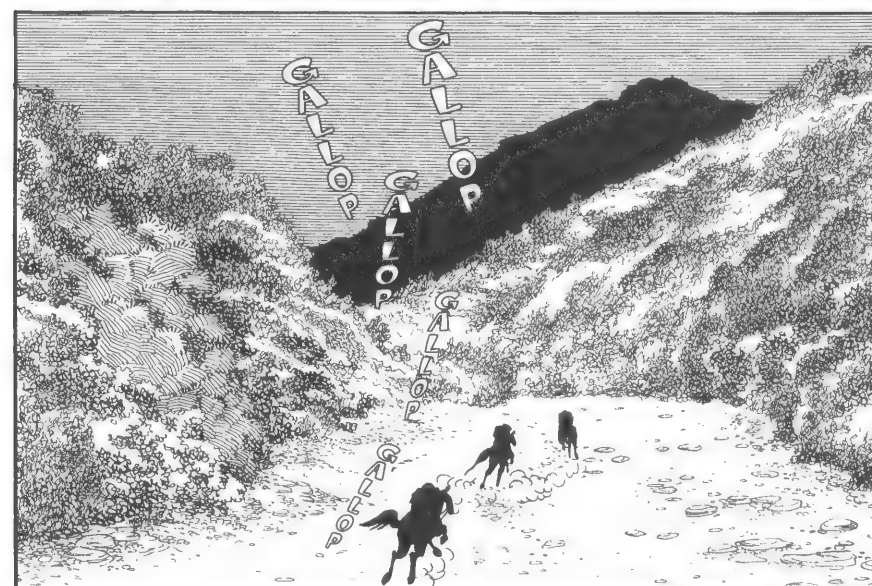
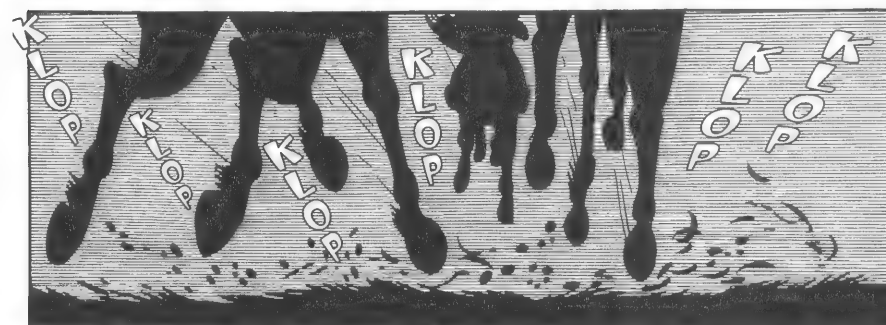
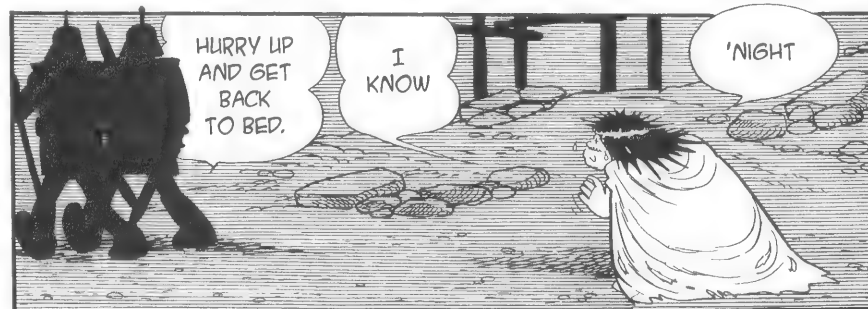
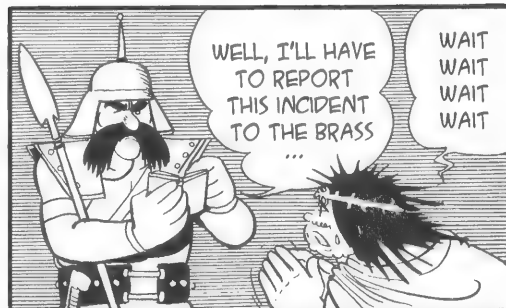


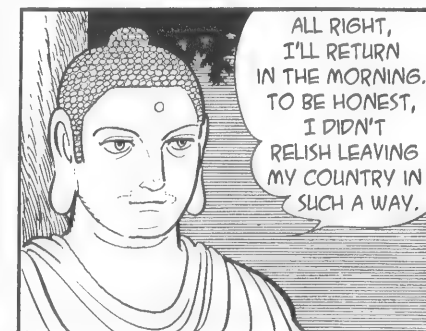
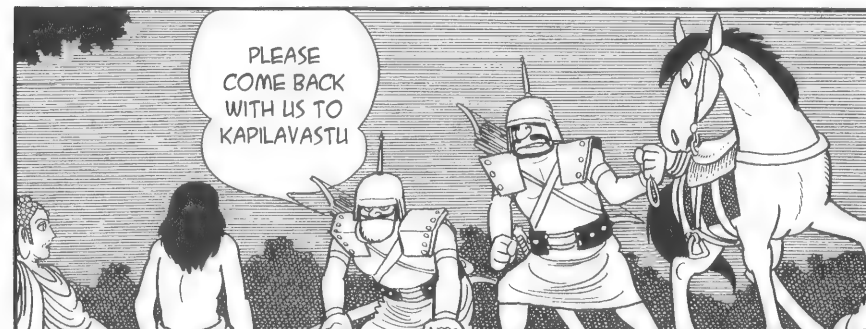
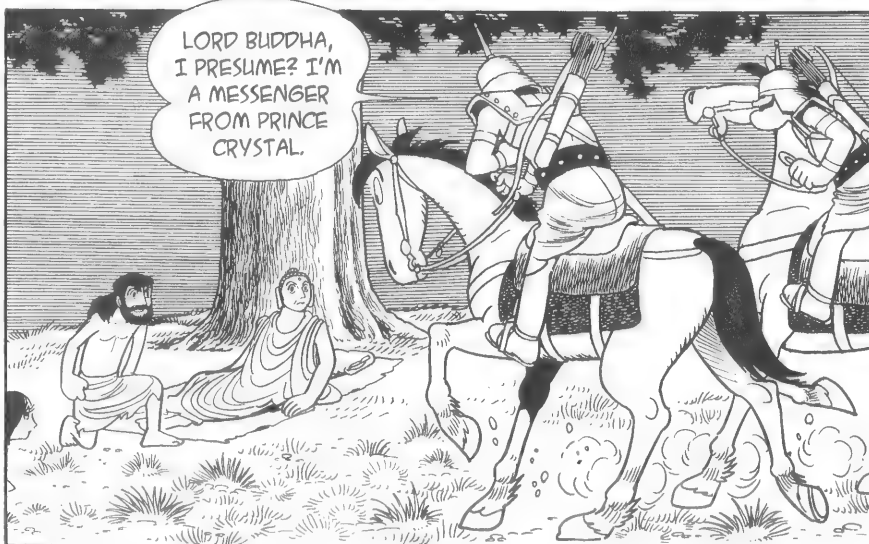
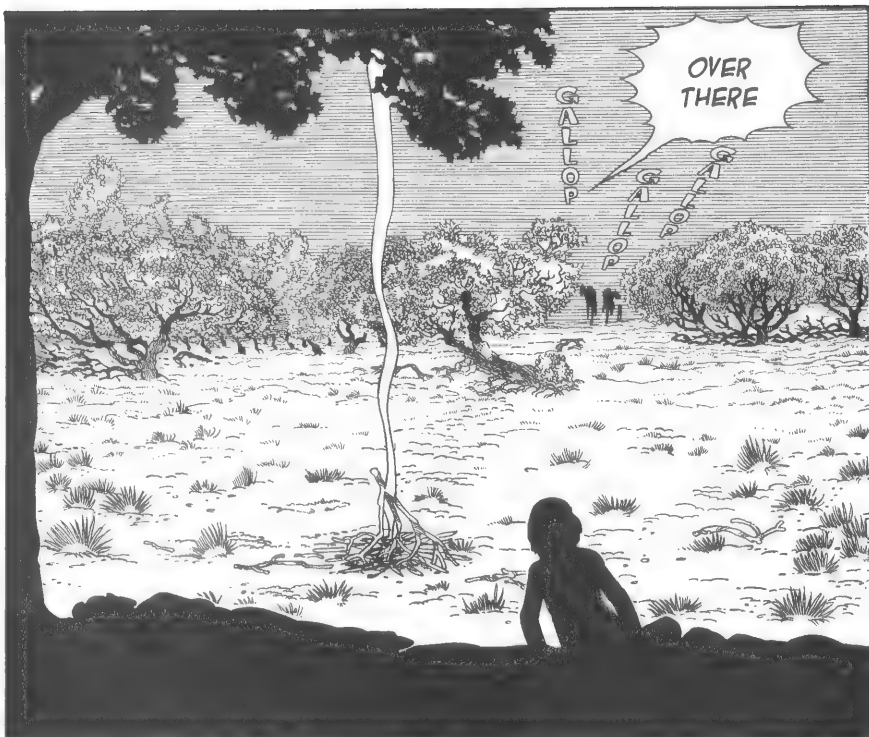


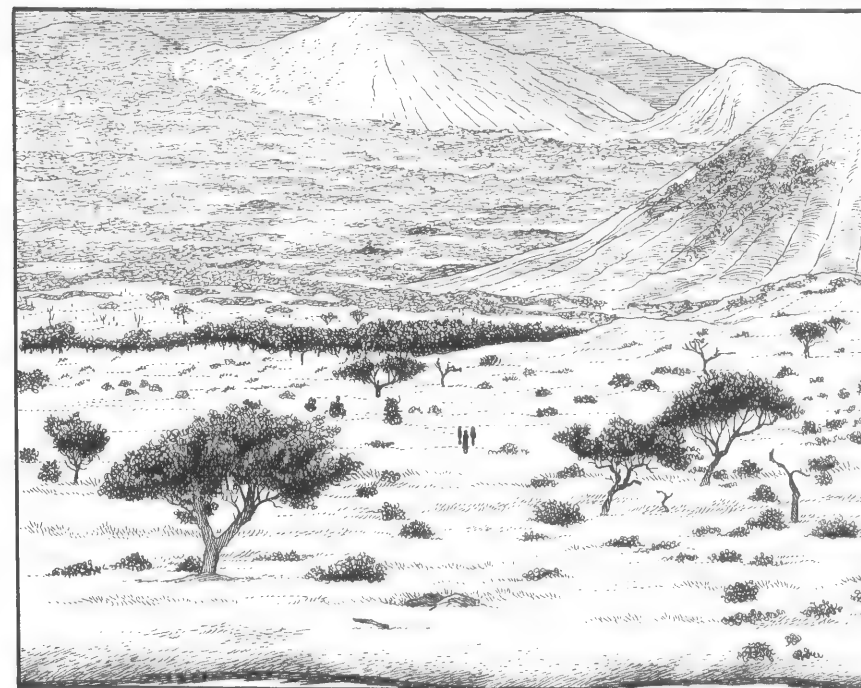
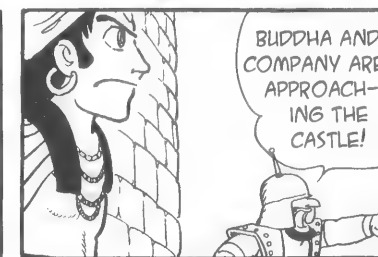
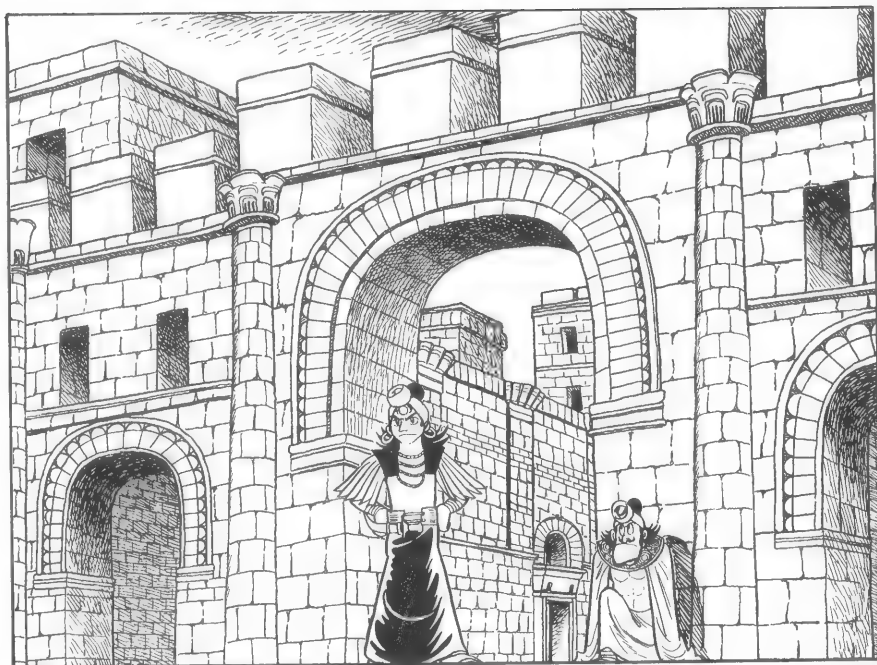


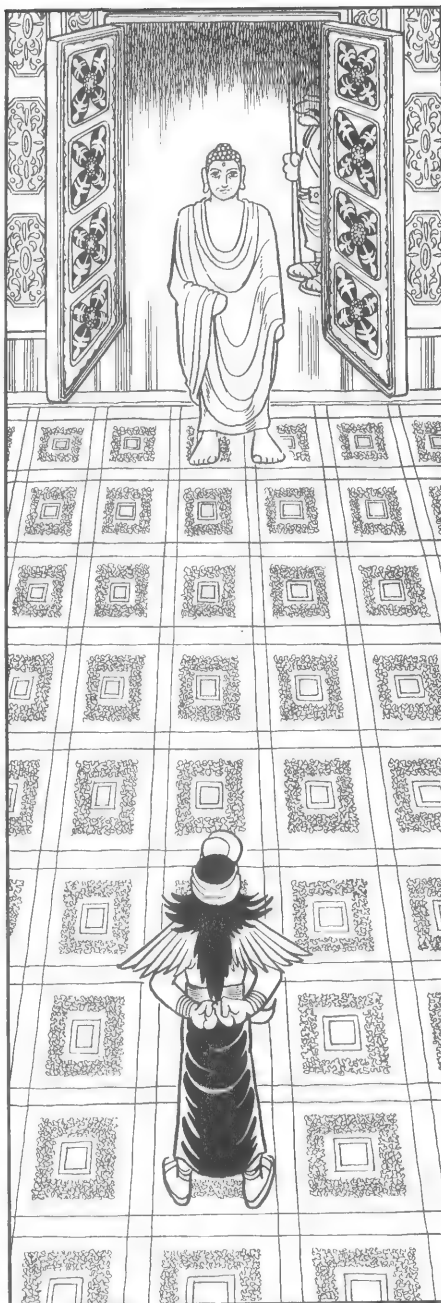




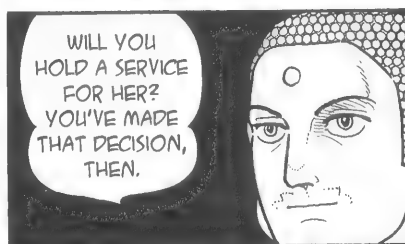








I ORDERED
YOUR RETURN
FOR A SPECIFIC
REASON.
I WANT TO
DISCUSS MY
MOTHER.



WILL YOU
HOLD A SERVICE
FOR HER?
YOU'VE MADE
THAT DECISION,
THEN.



I
WANT
YOU
TO
CON-
DUCT
THE
SERVICE
...

BUT ON
ONE
CONDITION.



YOU MUST
FORGET THE FACT
THAT MY MOTHER
WAS A SLAVE!



WHY
MUST
I?

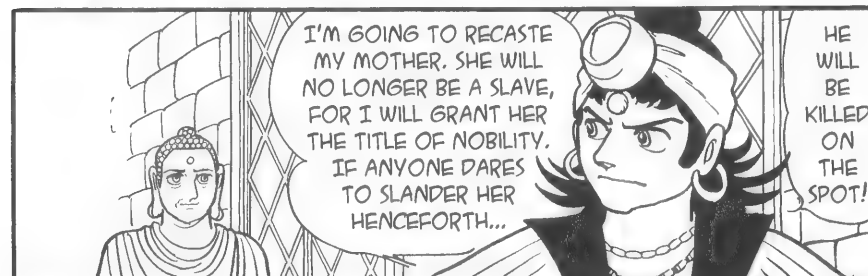


I HAVE
MY PRIDE,
YOU
KNOW.



SINCE I'M
DOING THIS AT
ALL, I WON'T
BE STINGY
ABOUT IT. WE'LL
HAVE A REAL
FESTIVAL WITH
NOBLES AND
CELEBRITIES IN
ATTENDANCE.

WE CAN'T
POSSIBLY
ANNOUNCE
THAT SHE WAS
A SLAVE.



I'M GOING TO RECASTE
MY MOTHER. SHE WILL
NO LONGER BE A SLAVE,
FOR I WILL GRANT HER
THE TITLE OF NOBILITY.
IF ANYONE DARES
TO SLANDER HER
HENCEFORTH...

HE
WILL
BE
KILLED
ON
THE
SPOT!



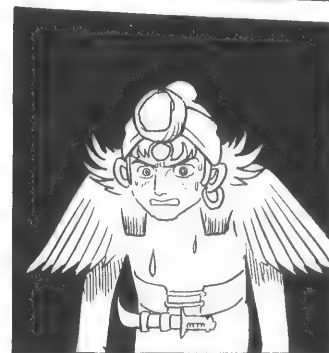
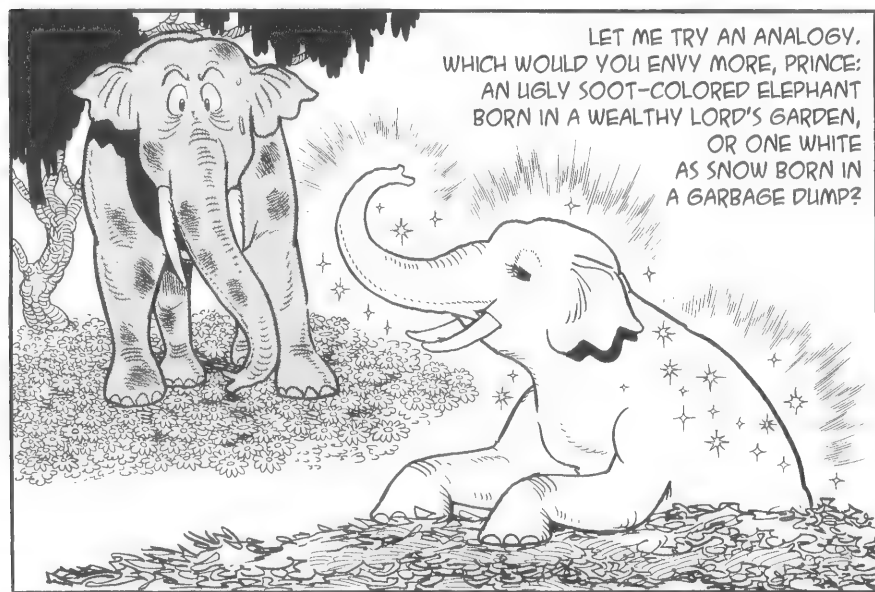
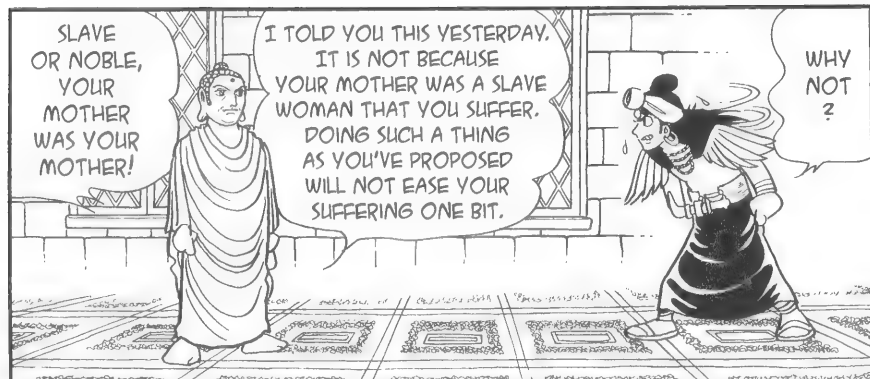
CHANGING
YOUR
MOTHER'S
CASTE
WON'T
CHANGE
A THING
FOR YOU.



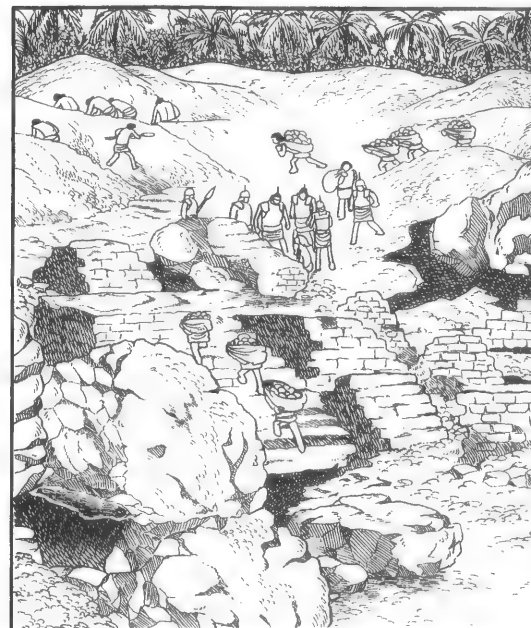
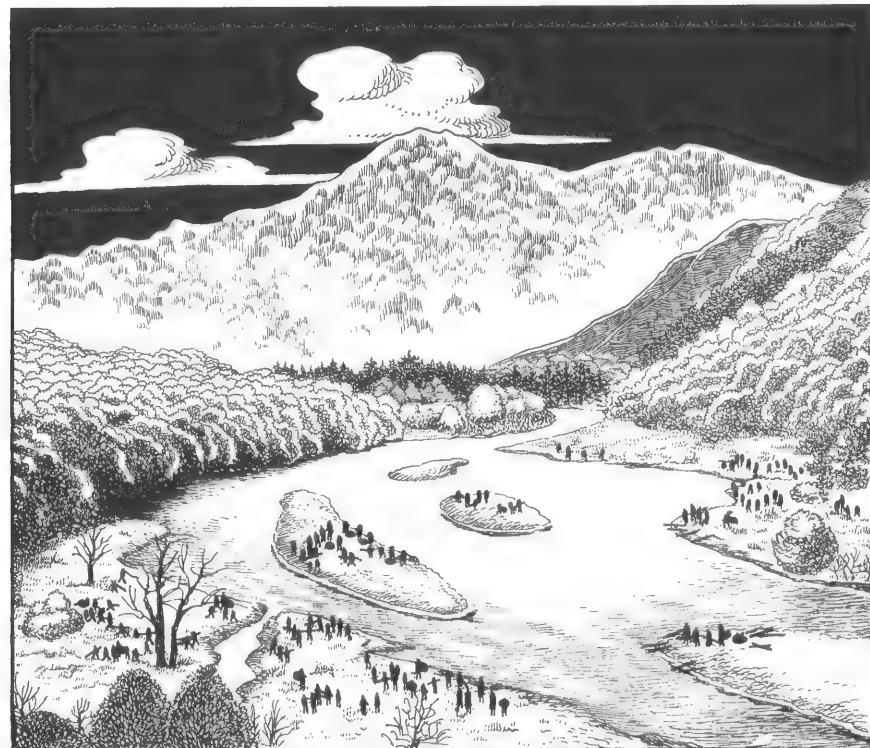
WHAT
?!



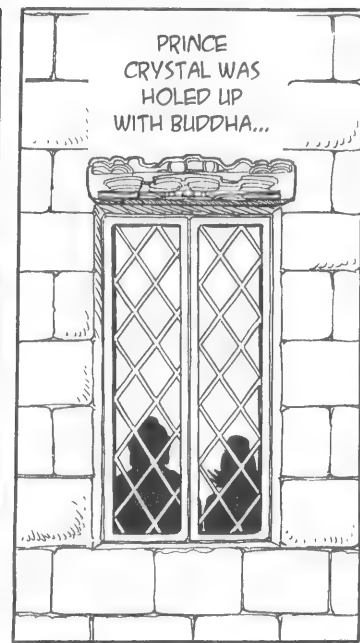
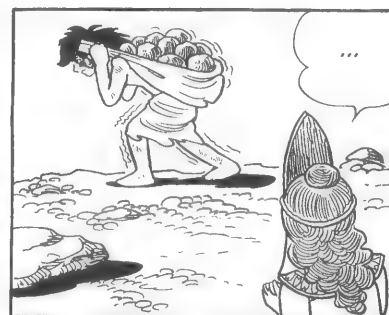
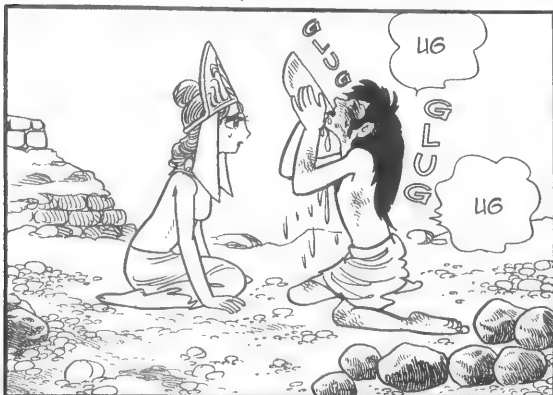
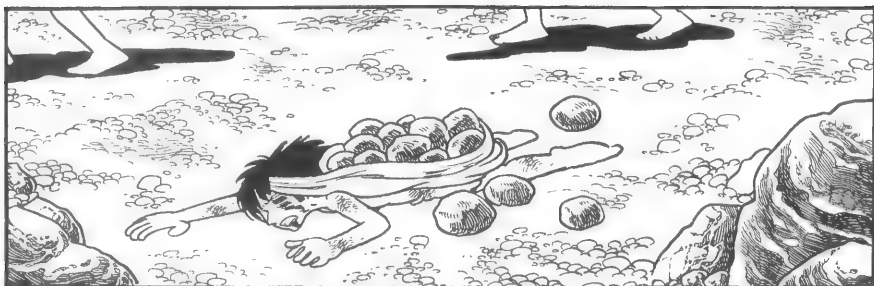
PRINCE,
YOU SEEM
OBSESSED
WITH
APPEARANCES,
LOSING FACE
AND SUCH
TRIFLES.

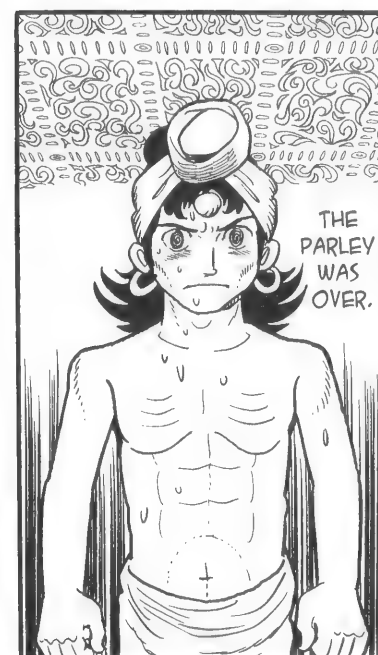
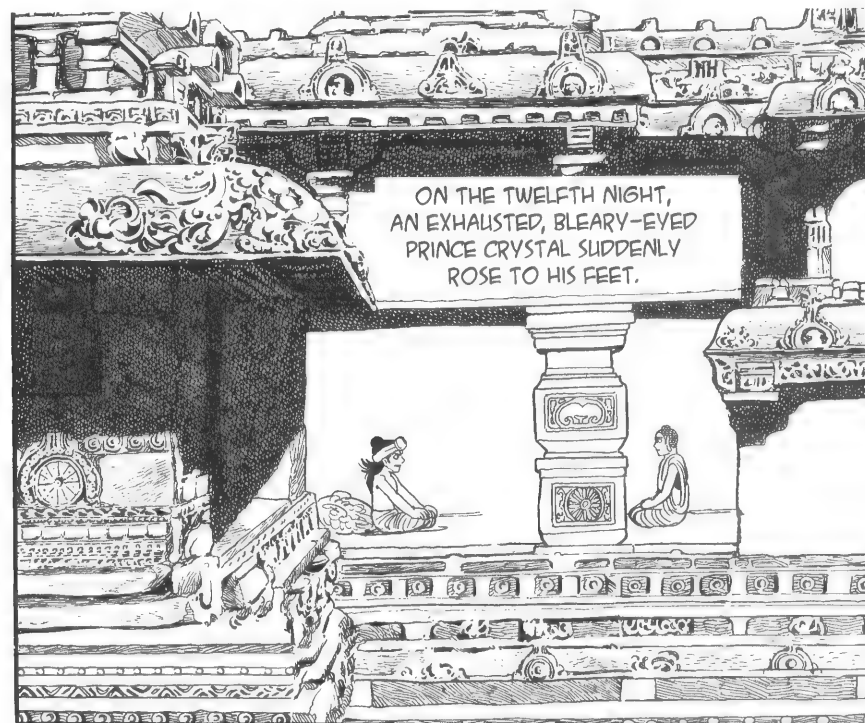
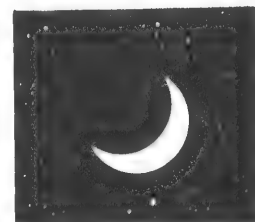
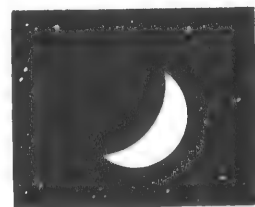
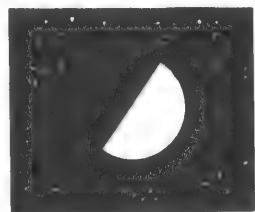
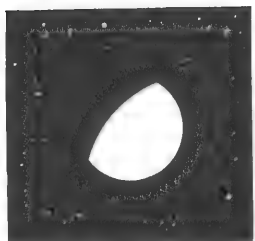


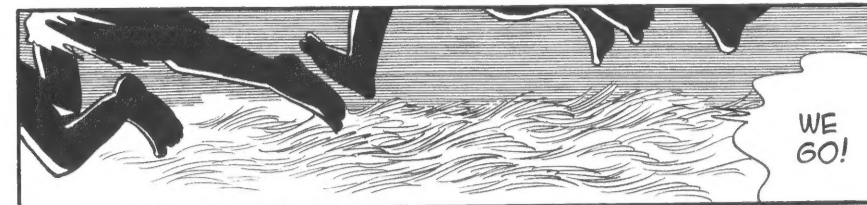
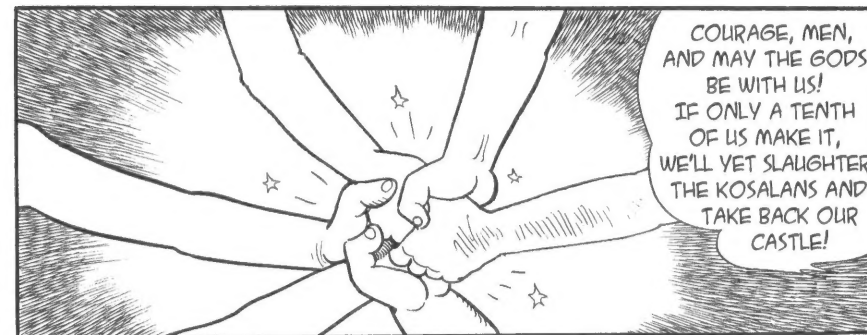
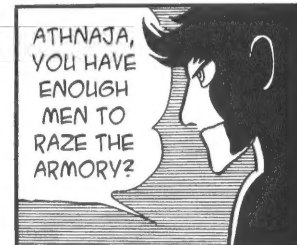
WHETHER IT IS BORN
ON TRASH OR ON FLOWERS,
AN ELEPHANT IS AN ELEPHANT.
THE SAME IS TRUE FOR HUMANS.
YOU SAY YOUR MOTHER WAS A SLAVE,
BUT WHATEVER HER BIRTH OR CASTE,
SHE WAS YOUR MOTHER.
WHERE IS THE SHAME IN THAT?

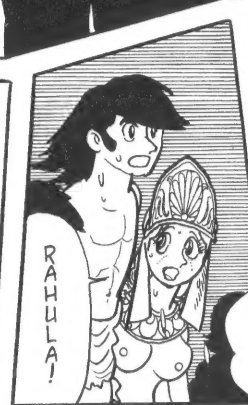
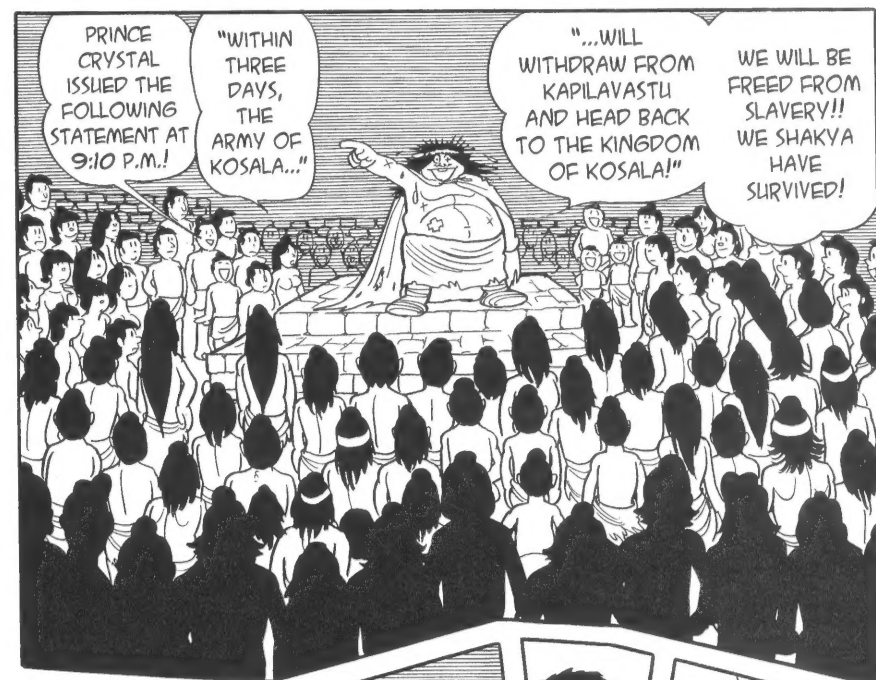
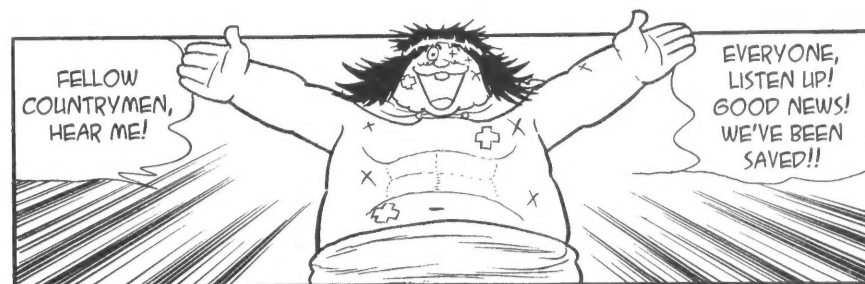
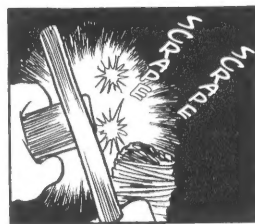
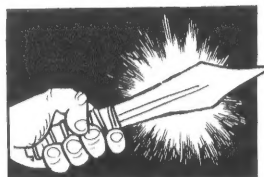
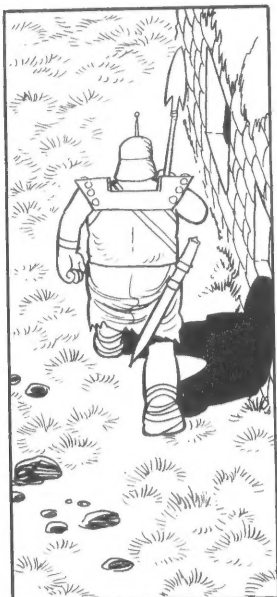


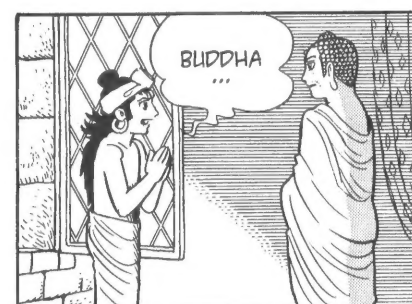


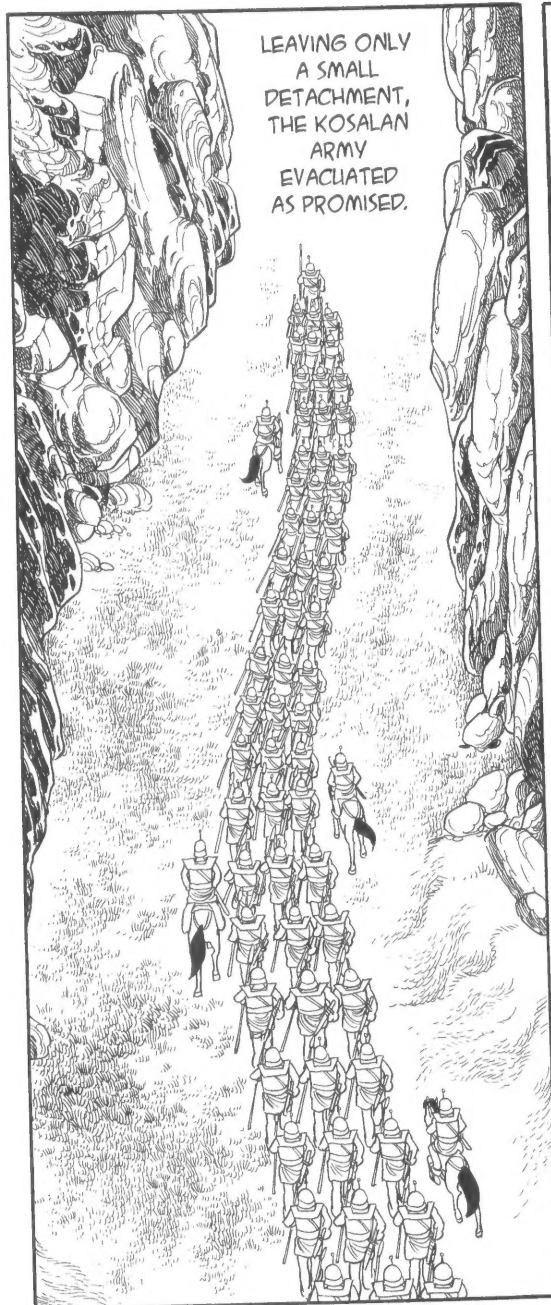




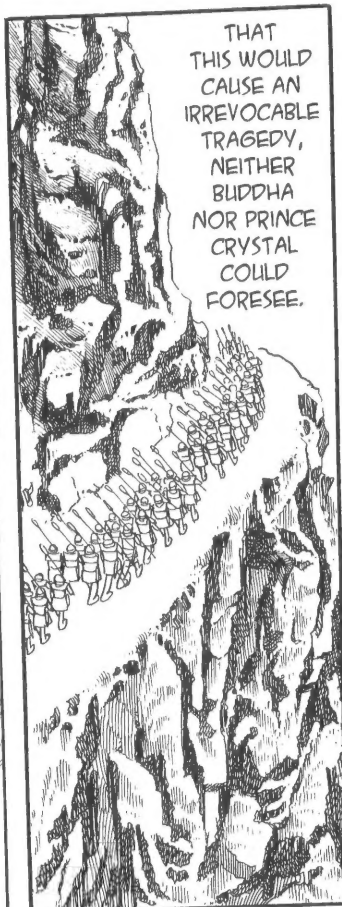
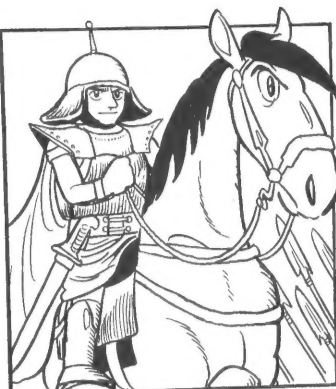








LEAVING ONLY
A SMALL
DETACHMENT,
THE KOSALAN
ARMY
EVACUATED
AS PROMISED.



THAT
THIS WOULD
CAUSE AN
IRREVOCABLE
TRAGEDY,
NEITHER
BUDDHA
NOR PRINCE
CRYSTAL
COULD
FORESEE.

HERE ENDS VOLUME SEVEN